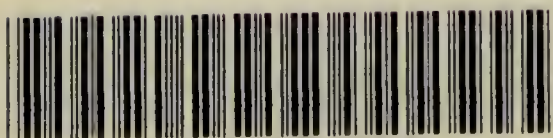


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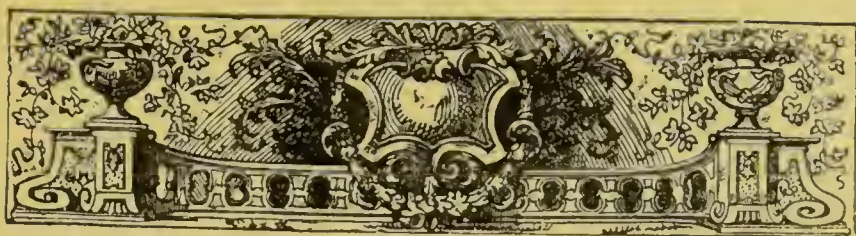
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*ROMANO-BRITISH REMAINS : PART I.*

LONDON:  
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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE fact of Britain at one time forming part of the Roman empire has introduced one of the most interesting branches of archæological research into the history of this country. Rome was so powerful, and her influence in all branches of law and polity was so enormous, that it has always been a problem as to how far she affected the course of events in Great Britain even after her fall had done away with a direct and recognised influence. So far as history teaches us, we know that the Romans found upon their arrival in Britain several Celtic tribes, more or less barbarous according to their degree of contact with the commercial nations who then traded with this island; and that after a vigorous government of about 300 years they left these tribes under much the same organization, and then the island was practically cut off from continental influences and civilization. That the Britons could not and did not step into the place of their Roman masters seems to be shown clearly enough. At any rate, so far as my own opinion is concerned, I cannot ignore the importance of the fact, strangely undervalued if not overlooked by all historians, that the British did not levy a national or imperial force to stem the tide of Saxon conquest. So significant a fact surely suggests that the Roman occupation of Britain was not a social occupation but a military one, and that *Roman* Britain meant little more than the few thousand luxurious occupiers of the villas, the merchants of the cities, together with the various garrisons in the military stations which dominated the country. Let it be granted that these several centres of Roman life gathered round them numerous British followers, and by this means permeated a portion

of the British population with Roman manners and Roman ideas. But such influence as we have here cannot have affected the course of British history in any considerable degree. It is true that when the Roman legions left Britain they had transformed the most important of the British camps into military stations of great strength, and connected them one with another by a vast and splendid system of roadways, along which troops could march to the relief of any garrison threatened or attacked. But then we find that all these advantages were not made available at a time when the bitterest foe of these early times made havoc in the land. And yet during one bright period of island independence, when Carausius defied the imperial power, the whole military system of Britain—land forces and sea forces alike—was in full and successful operation, giving the world a foretaste of what could be done with such splendid machinery. But Carausius was a Roman soldier, with Roman soldiers under him: the unity of purpose shown by his action was the result of the Roman military hold upon Britain. But there is no unity of purpose after the departure of the Roman legions. The contrast between the united effort under Carausius, and the action of the British tribes when real necessity, not the personal ambition of a hero, ought to have called forth the best efforts of a whole people, presents to my mind the true key to the right understanding of the Roman occupation of Britain. If the Romano-British chiefs and princes with their followers betook themselves to the country villas, and to the towns, when these places became deserted by their whilom conquerors; if they there carried on the luxurious modes of life, and used the ornaments and adopted the social ceremonial of the Romans, as they may have done according to the evidence of archæology, the evidence of history precludes us from believing that they also adopted the system of government and defence which lay ready to their hands fresh from the mould of Imperial Rome. Such a system, if properly carried on, would, in producing connected British action, also have produced the germs of British nationality. How little indeed was the chance of this is fully shown by the results. Roman commanders or their descendants might be represented by Aurelius Ambrosius and by the heroic Arthur, or Artorius as Mr. Coote has so acutely identified the name; but these and other chiefs, even if they themselves lived up in thought and aspiration to the traditions of their ancestry, and could think of and wish for a British military force, never succeeded in commanding anything better than



bodies of armed Celtic tribesmen, whose ideas and hopes did not extend beyond the narrow limits of tribal society. If, then, the English conquerors of the British met men organized like themselves into tribal groups ; and if we remember that nearly 400 years before Cæsar and Plautius and Agricola had met the ancestors of these self-same tribal groups, is not the conclusion irresistible that the character of the Roman occupation was that of a military holding only, and not a colonization ? Is it not further to be concluded that its influences did not set loose to any appreciable degree the social forces of a higher civilization upon an intelligent though barbarous people ? Such a result must have formed in the end a system of culture and civilization resembling in the main outline the original from which it sprang, and capable in its turn of influencing a still more barbarous conqueror. But so far from this being the case, we find that the Roman conquerors found the country occupied by tribes of more or less barbarous people, and they left it with the tribal organization still practically unbroken.

It has seemed worth while to commence the introduction to this volume by a short summary of the results of my own researches into Romano-British history, because two masterful works have laid it down that the earliest chapters of English history are to be sought for in the archives of Imperial Rome, and one of the sources of evidence in these two works is the remains of Romano-British objects so plentifully found throughout the country. These two books are, of course, the late Mr. Coote's *Romans of Britain* and Mr. Seebohm's *The English Village Community*. Mr. Coote, whose name I cannot write without the memory of his many acts of personal kindness and consideration crowding upon my mind, adopted no half-views with regard to the history of Roman Britain. That England is now a lineal descendant, without a break, of Roman Britain may be said to represent roughly his opinion. Mr. Seebohm, considering a different set of facts from a different standpoint, traces out one of the most primitive of organizations, the village community, to its home as a Saxon institution in a shell of serfdom under a lordship formed on a Roman model and by Roman influences. It is not possible to touch upon the detailed arguments advanced in these two important works now ; but this at all events may be said, that the lessons of comparative history will allow us to account for most, if not all, of the observable parallels between Roman and English institutions, and that there only then remains to consider the facts of the Roman occupation

and their results upon the British tribes. Of the facts we know little beyond what is contained in classical authorities, and these tend to show that Britain, being a source of wealth to the empire, was drained of that wealth and kept under subjection. Of the results I have already spoken; and if they be admitted as correct deductions from the observable phenomena, it appears to me that the law and polity of Rome did not leave an enduring mark upon the general features of the English institutions. That here and there these two potent influences lived on, however, is as true as that almost everywhere they died out. That in places where a colonization was effected; that in towns like London, where the commercial community may have lived through the troublous early Anglo-Saxon times, there may perhaps have been handed on portions of the older Roman organization, is, I think, capable of some proof;\* but that in the open country the new settlers turned their freedom into servitude, organized their village communities upon a basis which started with an oppressive overlordship, is a condition of things which, however ably set forth, seems to me unproven alike by the arguments of reason and the facts of archæology and history. If the Anglo-Saxon tribesmen broke away from the remnants of Roman overlordship existing in their homes in Germania, as conquerors they could have been in no mood to accept any very close and systematic imitation of it in their new home. They appear on the page of history as fierce and implacable foes. How their destruction of Romano-British works—villas and cities—was carried on, some examples in the following pages will well illustrate; and if the tangible evidences of Roman wealth and power were thus swept away, it is difficult to see how the immaterial evidences—the theories and practice of government—could have made headway.

We may well ask, then, at this juncture, how does the lesson to be derived from archæological remains fit in with these conclusions? Such a collection as we have in the following pages of the discoveries of 130 years over all parts of England must sensibly affect the answer to such a question, and I do not think that any portion of the present undertaking will be found on the whole to yield such satisfactory results. What a valuable source of information on Roman remains the *Gentleman's Magazine* is may be gathered from the fact that Huebner, in his great collection of Latin inscriptions discovered

\* See my paper in *Middlesex Arch. Soc. Transactions*, on "The Early Municipal History of London," and cf. Mr. Alfred Tylor's valuable paper in *Archæologia*, xlviii., p. 225.

in Great Britain, invariably obtains most of his early information from its pages. How interesting this information becomes when brought together into a readable compass and arranged topographically, as here adopted, must, I think, be patent to all; and its use is demonstrated by the conclusions we are able to draw relative to the all-important historical question which has just been touched upon.

We will examine the subject of the Romano-British remains dealt with in the following pages under four heads :

1. Roman life in Britain.
2. Romano-British continuity.
3. Evidence of the conflict with the English.
4. Results of the conflict.

1. *Roman Life in Britain*.—This is perhaps best exemplified by the interesting series of inscriptions which are recorded. I have been at pains to compare these with Huebner's great book, and where the reading in the *Gentleman's Magazine* is manifestly wrong, I have altered it to Huebner's reading. In cases, however, where there is some reason for the variant reading, I have kept to the text, and either recorded Huebner's reading in the notes, or placed it in the text between square brackets. Forgeries, of course, I have rejected where I have been able to detect them. The subject of inscriptions is one of great importance. They tell us of the legions who were stationed here, of the emperors who were chiefly honoured, and occasionally of the private sentiments of the soldiers. Very little indication of the British share in the island is given in these inscriptions. The local deity Sul at Aquæ Solis, the Deæ Matres, Belatucader, and Nodon or Nodens, are some instances where British deities forced their way into the Roman pantheon; but they are the adopted gods of the Roman soldiers, not British gods having altars inscribed by British devotees. The inscriptions for the most part deal with the Roman soldier and his commander, and they record tributes to the Roman gods: Jupiter Optimus Maximus, Fortuna, etc. There are no traces of British names, no indication that the Romans ever looked upon the British in any other light than that of a conquered race. They celebrated their conquests in sculpture, as may be seen by reference to p. 96, where the discovery is recorded of a stone giving a representation of an ancient warrior on horseback, with a legionary Roman sword by his side and a spear in his hand,



in the act of striking at a Briton who lies prostrate on the ground, and who is defending himself with a sword of a different description.

The second source of information as to Roman life in Britain is the coins. Only the coins found in conjunction with other remains are recorded in this volume; the finds of treasure-hordes and isolated coin-finds are reserved for the volume on "Numismatics." The earliest coins found among the ruins of Roman buildings in Britain are those of Augustus, and the latest those of Theodosius. Until the reign of Carausius no Roman coins were minted in Britain, and not regularly after his time. The date when the Roman legions finally left the island is A.D. 442; and it is significant to find that, so far as numismatic evidence goes, there are no traces of any governmental connection between the empire and its once important dominion after the final departure of the army.

The evidence of Roman life in the cities and camps and villas is not so perfect, because we find these centres invariably in some stage of decay denoting fierce and ruthless destruction. But keeping clear of the evidences of destruction, which will be considered later on, we may ascertain clearly enough that Roman life in Britain was the same as Roman life elsewhere. The cities were connected by great roadways to other cities and to the empire. They were traversed by rectangular roadways leading to fortified gates. They possessed a forum, temples, and other public buildings. Outside the walls was the *pomœrium*, beyond which and along the sides of the roads were the burial-places; while amidst the green fields and in the open lands within sight of the city was the amphitheatre.

When we come to consider the evidences of the Roman formation of London, York, Colchester, and other towns, it is clear that the rigid rules of the Roman constitution were strictly adhered to. The formation of the towns within the boundary walls is clearly indicated. There are remains of the walls at London (pp. 213, 219-222), Silchester, Wroxeter, Lincoln (a gate is entirely unmolested here), Colchester, etc.; remains of the forum at Silchester (120-121); remains of temples at Plymbridge (45) and Wycomb (99); remains of embankments and wharfages at York, Gloucester, and London.

Outside the walls we have, first, the open space called the *pomœrium*, which could not be built upon. Traces of this may perhaps be found in the name of the parish of St. Martin's Pomeroy, London (see Coote's *Romans of Britain*, 361); and it is curious to note that outside Dorchester walls there is an open space which is

called by the inhabitants the "pummery," and which was used for festivals and sports in quite recent times. To this spot I was introduced by my friend Mr. J. J. Foster in April, 1884, and as it is now partially built over, and will, I suppose, some day cease to exist, it is advisable to record an otherwise unobserved fact.

The amphitheatre was also built outside the walls, and perhaps there is no more perfect specimen than that at Dorchester described on pp. 46-8. The remains of other amphitheatres have survived at Caerleon, Silchester, and Wroxeter.

Finally, to complete the city organization during Roman times, there are the extra-mural burial-places. Nothing is more significant than the evidences of this in Britain; and the communication on pp. 235-238 on the discoveries along the margins of the turnpike-roads in Northamptonshire is particularly interesting, as the genuine record of an acute observer who sent his letter to the *Gentleman's Magazine* at a time when he had little to encourage him in such pursuits besides the pages of Sylvanus Urban. Outside most of our large cities, where they occupy the site of the Roman town, as at London, York, Dorchester, frequent discoveries are made of Roman burial-places; and when the English town has been built alongside the ruins of the Roman town, the burials are found to be under the foundations of the modern city.

The social life of the Roman period is indicated by the ornaments, pottery, rubbish heaps, etc., which have been found upon the sites of the villas. Perhaps the most interesting object found is the stylus, an iron or ivory instrument not unlike a modern pencil, and used, as is well known, for writing on the wax tablets which the Romans carried with them. Specimens were found at Chester (17), Keston (150), Wycomb (97, 100, 104). Connected with what might be termed the official life may be also mentioned the bronze balance found at Canterbury, and the compasses at Wycomb. It is also curious to note the interesting ceremonial staff, if the object found at Wroxeter (273) is really such; for as the only official symbol of imperial rule which has been discovered in Britain, it tells a tale of double import.

Of personal ornaments there are amber, pearl, glass, and clay beads, necklaces of beads, bronze armillæ, amulets, amethyst pendants (found at Milton, see p. 53), bronze buckles, bone and bronze hair-pins, bronze earrings, bronze bracelets, brooches, combs, etc. There are only a few gold objects found; namely, a bracelet at

Dover, another at Melton, a collar, etc., at Ropley, a ring at Whittesley. Pins and needles were found (273), rings in London and Silchester, and buttons at Wroxeter. Sandals, showing the use of rights and lefts, have been found in London (see p. 203); while to show how the ladies managed their toilets, we have the metal mirrors found at Wroxeter and Coddtenham.

The surgeon's lancet discovered at Wroxeter (283), and the physician's stamp (275), are curious memorials of Roman life in Britain.

It is interesting to find that the Romans burnt coal in their villas, as the evidence from Fescote (p. 8) and Wroxeter (pp. 277, 280) seems to indicate; while still more interesting is the discovery that they had glass windows (pp. 116, 131, 177, 272). Mr. Laver has discovered several pieces of glass in a villa at Alresford in Essex, and his conclusions are that they belonged to windows, and were of plate glass "superior in its manufacture to glass of the present day" (*Antiquary*, xii. 224).

2. *Romano-British Continuity*.—All the regular and accepted features of Roman organization and social life which we have just noted are so perfect, and so thoroughly in accord with what we know to be the state of things in other lands where the Roman Empire had spread, that there is no room to suggest that such a system was not powerful enough, if it had continued in active operation, to impress itself firmly and distinctly upon the life of the people among whom it existed. That no such impress was made is *prima facie* evidence that the provincial Britain received little from the Roman Empire save the nominal succession to its luxurious villas and its walled and well-fortified strongholds. While the cromlechs and the stone circles, the records of which a previous volume of this series has gathered together, are the undoubted relics of the early British race, there is not much to show for the race during the years of Roman power, and that terrible period between A.D. 410 and 450, when the Romans had left them to themselves. And what little can be identified as Romano-British relates to the memorials of the dead. There are no British villas after Roman models, no British fortifications and defences learnt from the greatest masters of the military art. Stilicho might come with his legions and his fleet and drive back the swarming foes of Picts and Saxons, but he could not leave behind, even to the undoubted Roman population of the towns, anything of a



system which would carry on the old life. The cities armed, but could not combine; the tribes fought only to be defeated seriatim. And during all this time no money is found bearing the image of any Romano-British prince or British city, but what little apparently belongs to this epoch is a very poor mintage made in imitation of well-known types.

Where there does, however, seem to be evidence of a Romano-British continuity of history is in matters of religion. The churches built on the city wall at Silchester (118), and at London (220); those built on evident Roman foundations in London (193, 211), the frequent occurrence of Roman material being used for the building of other churches, as at Lannercost, Bradwell, Brixworth, Castor, and elsewhere—all point towards influences which must almost have been contemporaneous with the fall of Roman power, and yet evidently carried part of that power forward to later times.

But Mr. Seebohm goes much further than this, and we may here conveniently venture to glance at his theory. At Much Wymondley, Ashwell, and Litlington (see pp. 15-16) he very significantly points out that the church and manor-house occupy or adjoin the sites where the walls and pavement of a Roman building have been found; that a little distance off, the cemetery was found; and that round this Roman homestead were still uninclosed, in 1803, the open fields of the village community system. Mr. Laver, a distinguished Essex antiquary, affirms the same kind of evidence at Alresford and West Mersea (see *Antiquary*, 1885, vol. xii., p. 224). From these archæological facts it is argued that 'it seems likely that, assuming the lordship vacated by the owners of the villas and adopting the village sites, they (the West Saxons) continued the cultivation of the open fields around them by means of the old rural population, or that same three-field system which had probably been matured and improved during Roman rule, and by which the population of a district had been supported during the three generations between the departure of the Roman governor and the West Saxon conquest.' And the "fact seems to be that the archæological evidence gradually accumulating, as time goes on, points more and more clearly to the fact that our modern villages are very often on these old Roman, and sometimes probably pre-Roman, sites; that however much the English invaders avoided the walled towns of Roman Britain, they certainly had no such antipathy to the occupation of its villas and

rural villages."<sup>20</sup> This is the opinion of a distinguished scholar and student, and one is bound to consider it most deeply and attentively.

But before the last word has been said upon this subject, the question must surely be answered, Why did the Saxon cultivator so often turn the site of the Roman villa into arable lands, and plough and dig in the spot where his lord used to dwell? Not only at Hitchin, but at Litlington (15, 16) and Bray (6) we have the curious and significant phenomena that in the open fields—the relics of the primitive village system of agriculture in England—are found remains of the Romans. It is rarely we find a Roman villa situated within the precincts of a modern country homestead, whether of lord or yeoman. Such an one is indeed to be seen within the park at Apethorpe, the seat of the Earl of Westmorland, and which I visited some few years ago. This is a pavement, well preserved, and no doubt belonging to a villa, the remains of which might still be found. I do not know that this has been described, and it is not included in Mr. Morgan's splendid work.

But to come to a rightful conclusion on these points we must have more evidence—more evidence means systematic work, about which I have something to say presently; but even before we can hope to get all the available evidence together, it is well to bear in mind that Roman villas by no means implied Roman villages; that for the instances which Mr. Seebohm advances where continuity in the occupation of one site may be shown by archæology, there are innumerable instances where archæology shows no such continuity.

3. *Evidence of the Conflict*.—Mr. Green has drawn a vivid picture of the English conquest; and though the colouring his language gives to the chronicle and legendary accounts of the period is unquestionably too deep for sober history, it represents in the main the story which archæology has to tell. Look where we will, there is evidence of fierce destruction and overwhelming and headlong defeat. The conflict was bravely maintained, but all the more ruthless were the conquerors. Almost all the sites of Roman cities bear evidence of the work of destruction, chiefly by fire. Thus at the Roman level in London, now some 4 to 12 feet below the present road line, there are many traces of fire (see pp. 188, 216). Fire, too, destroyed Silchester (see p. 114), and the villas at Wycomb, Haceby, and Carisbrook.

\* Seebohm's *English Village Community*, pp. 435, 436.

But perhaps the most touching episodes of the conflict are retained amidst the ruins of Wroxeter. On p. 274 it is recorded how three human skeletons were found in a hypocaust, one of which, a male, appears to be crouching in a corner, while the other two, females, lay close beside. A little heap of coins close by, with the remains of the wooden coffer, give the date and imply the nature of the catastrophe that here overtook the old man and his female companions. No such natural destruction as that which has revealed to us the inner life of Pompeii swept over these British places; and the inference is just that the destruction was dealt by the sword and torch of the Saxon. Compared with what Mr. Joyce discovered at Silchester, such a conclusion is almost irresistible. After the digging at Silchester, recorded on p. 121, Mr. Joyce went on with his important labours, and in *Archæologia*, vol. xlvii., pp. 329-365, he relates one of the most thrilling episodes in his researches. In the forum, underneath a thick layer of charred wood, was discovered a very beautiful Roman eagle (p. 121), and here, under this symbol of Roman military greatness, no doubt was made the last stand, until the building being fired from without involved in its own destruction that of those who fought within it. The story as Mr. Joyce relates it is well worth repeating here, because it indicates as graphically as anything I know how much archæology has to tell if rightly appealed to. "If we assume," says Mr. Joyce, "this eagle to have been once the imperial standard of a Roman legion, some *aquilifer* of the revolted troops [under Allectus] shut up here as a last stand, despairing of its safety and of his own life, whilst the western side of this basilica was beleaguered, rather than surrender his trust, tore away the bird from the fulmen which its talons had grasped upon the summit of its staff, wrenched off its wings, fastened only by an attachment to its back, and hid it in the wooden ceiling of the *ærarium*, placing it above a beam, as Romans are known occasionally to have secreted treasure. He himself no doubt perished in the *mêlée*. The basilica was taken, and was fired at the centre (there is evidence that this took place); but the conflagration did not consume the end room on the south of the range, and so the eagle hidden in the timbers of the *ærarium* remained where its guardian had deposited it until the final fire, kindled by barbarian hands long after the Romans ceased to dwell here, consumed the basilica for the last time, and buried the Roman bird in that venerable grave from which he has been happily rescued."



Let it be remembered that this story is founded upon the archaeological remains as they appeared to this diligent and careful excavator, that every part of it is borne out by the condition of the ruins as they appeared upon first being excavated, and it will be granted that such evidence is too well founded to be rejected.

4. *Results of the Conflict.*—Turning now to our last section, what is the evidence to be derived from the cities now occupying Roman sites? In London Mr. Alfred Tylor has pointed out that much of the traffic in modern days passes over the lines which have been traced out by the original Roman roads (*Archæologia*, vol. xlviii., pp. 221-248); but Mr. Loftie will not have it so. “But for the wall, but for the bridge,” he says, “Roman London might as well never have been built, so entire is the breach of continuity in the succession of events which follows the invasion of the Saxons.”\* This seems to me far too sweeping a statement to be borne out by the archæology of Roman London; but the fact that Saxon, and above all Danish, London was twisted, so to speak, from its old ground-plan to something quite new, seems partly confirmed by the discoveries recorded on pp. 188-220, when the pavements are generally found during the excavations for sewers, and right in the centre of the modern streets. At Dorchester it is not so clear that Roman villas did not occupy much the line of frontage that the modern house occupies. At York the destruction seems to have been more extensive; but then in these northern lands later and mediæval wars and raids enter into the facts which must be considered.

Important as such evidence as this is, it is insignificant compared to that obtained from the sites of such places as Wroxeter and Silchester. Where the citizen walked and ruled in Roman times, the plough of the Saxon now works. The plough thus following up the work begun thirteen centuries ago also tells a similar story when we come to deal with the country villa instead of the fortified town. Such a destruction, so complete and so thorough, tells a tale which needs no comment to force its decisive testimony as to the result of the English conquest of Roman Britain. When the Romans conquered a city, Horace informs us the plough was drawn over the walls (*Odes* i. 16); and terribly this symbol of Roman arrogance was turned against its authors when they in turn came to be the conquered. Sword and plough converted town and villa to the uses of

\* Loftie's *Historic Towns: London*, p. 9.

another set of people—a people who cared for neither town nor villa, but who did care for the tillage-ground which their havoc gave up to them. The map of Britain in Roman times would not do for Saxon history, for it showed flourishing cities, grand roads, luxurious villas, whereas even the later Saxon kings found their homes in palaces where the wind could easily penetrate, and where rush-strewn floors were looked upon as luxuries.

It is singular that only one find of agricultural implements is to be recorded—namely, that at Bigberry (see p. 141). Other finds have been made in England, but they are by no means frequent. Dr. Daubeny, in his *Lectures on Roman Husbandry*, gives some useful information on the implements used by or known to the Romans. In a review of this work printed in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1857, Part II., pp. 588-597, the following passage occurs, and it forms a very good summary of the facts supplied by Daubeny :

The account of the implements used in husbandry given by the Roman writers is somewhat confused. Omitting the ploughshare—the vexed question as to the formation of which Dr. Daubeny has ably investigated, we have the *urpex*, or *irpex*, according to Varro, a harrow with many teeth, dragged by oxen, to dislodge the roots from the ground. Columella speaks of a wicker-work hurdle, called *crates*, armed with iron teeth, as being used for a similar purpose, and Virgil also makes mention of it ; from which our author is inclined to think it probable that the harrow which followed the plough, the *irpex* of Cato and Varro, was identical with the *crates* of a later period. The *rastrum* mentioned by Virgil seems to have been a rake, armed probably with iron teeth, and used for mixing dung. *Sarculus*, or *sarculum*, was an iron tool employed in the mountains for stirring up the ground, in lieu of a plough. The Biscayan peasantry at the present day employ an instrument somewhat of this nature for their hilly land. It seems to have been a heavy hoe, used also for cleaning out drains, cutting furrows, and similar operations. Columella associates the *ligo* with the *marra*, a term still used in Italy, where it denotes a mattock. It would seem, therefore, as our author says, to have been rather a pickaxe than a spade, as it is more generally interpreted. *Pala*, on the contrary, was probably a spade. The *bidens* was a two-pronged instrument, used in place of the plough for stirring up the soil where vineyards were planted—a heavy mattock, in fact. The *falx* was simply a knife with a curved edge, and hence was applied to a variety of instruments employed for the different purposes



of husbandry—reaping, mowing, pruning, and vine-dressing, for example.

As so few of these implements are found among the remains of the Roman occupation of Britain, there are only two explanations to offer which can satisfactorily account for such a phenomenon—first, that the Saxon conquerors used them in the development of their own agricultural implements; secondly, that the British were the tillers of the soil, and that Roman implements were very rarely used in Britain. There is some evidence that the Saxon agricultural implements were too rude to have been borrowed from the Romans. Thus, at the recent Domesday conference an important exhibition at the British Museum was that of three Anglo-Saxon MSS. of the eleventh century, wherein was shown the method of ploughing. The first of these was the Harley Psalter, with a drawing in colour, with a fine pencil or brush, of a man ploughing with a primitive plough, drawn by two oxen directed simply by the goad, and with no head-gear or driver. The other MSS. were Anglo-Saxon Calendars, and give a drawing and a picture of a plough drawn by four oxen led by a driver with a long goad, but with no head-gear. And there is much more evidence that the primitive British implements have lasted even to modern times.—Mitchel's *Past in the Present*, p. 97. Again, therefore, the lessons of archæology—the absence of certain objects just as much as the presence of others—point to a break between Roman and Saxon times.

I have now sketched, imperfectly I know full well for the vastness of the subject, some of the points of interest which appear to be indicated by the collections pointed out in this volume. Of one thing I am quite certain, that nothing can adequately be accomplished towards ascertaining the exact degree of Roman influences in English history until a complete record is made of Roman remains. It seems to me to be simply monstrous that, with the organization by central and local archæological societies, so little has been attempted in this direction. To the individual efforts of one man—Mr. Thompson Watkins—we owe more than is now easily recognised. Mr. Watkins's labours have been systematic and continuous. His books on *Roman Lancashire* and his projected *Roman Cheshire* are distinct landmarks in the archæological survey of Roman Britain. Mr. Morgan's recently published *Romano-British Mosaic Pavements* is another example of what really good work may be accomplished. But of course these individual efforts do not really exhaust either the objects



or methods of future research. On page 5 it is suggested that a map of the Roman topography of the island should be compiled. This suggestion was made in 1795, and now nearly 100 years later we have got very little nearer the accomplishment of such a simple scheme. Before a map could be properly marked, however, we want an index of places where Roman remains have been found. Such an index I proposed to the Index Society in 1879; and though it was accepted as a suitable publication for the society, nothing has been done since to forward its object. It cannot be accomplished single-handed. A specimen of my plan was printed in the society's report, but it did not bring much help; and although I have been adding to my MS. index ever since, it is, of course, even now very far from complete. As some idea of the importance of such an undertaking, I shall give an *index locorum* of the collections in the present volume.

Of the uses to which such an index would constantly be applied may be mentioned—(1) To ascertain where Roman remains have *not* been found; (2) to classify the objects found first with regard to their locality, and, secondly, with regard to their class; (3) to find out what objects important to Roman life are not to be found among the ruins in Britain. Of course it does not follow because a particular object has not been found up to the present day, or because any given place has not yielded Roman remains, that, therefore, future research will not supply such deficiencies in the index; but now that we are more alive to these things, every year will make it more reasonable to found argument based upon the absence as well as the presence of Roman remains. Until the discovery in 1859 of the villa at Carisbrook, it had been contended that the Romans did not occupy the Isle of Wight, and we know how much has since been discovered by Mr. F. G. Hilton Price and his colleagues, Mr. J. E. Price and Mr. E. W. Brabrook, at Brading. Again, in the following pages it will be found that neither Cornwall, Derbyshire, nor Herefordshire are represented. In Cornwall we know the mines were early worked by the Romans; and a fibula was found by some stream-tinners in Tregilgas Moor, in the parish of St. Ewe.—1787, Part ii., p. 1055. Derbyshire is traversed by Roman roads, a dissertation upon which was published by Dr. Pegge in 1784; and at Bakewell some coins and other objects have been found.—1803, Part ii., p. 915. Herefordshire contained one station.—1787, part ii., p. 1054. And yet, in a sense, the merely incidental mention of these facts is indicative of the extent of the Roman occupation of these counties,

as may easily be seen by reference to the map affixed to Scarth's *Roman Britain*, or to the excellent map of the itinerary of Antoninus affixed to Mr. Morgan's *Romano-British Mosaic Pavements*. Certain it is that no pavements or other indications of settled occupation have been found in Cornwall or Derby. In Hereford, says Mr. Morgan, "we have no special descriptions of pavement, only observations upon them of a general character reported in Gough's *Camden*," and relating to Kenchester. This is important testimony to the value of collecting these subjects from the chaos of the *Gentleman's Magazine*; for although it must never be considered that here we have anything like a complete record of finds, it is in every sense a representative record.

Of the many indications in the present volume of the wanton destruction of remains it is not necessary to say much; the same story is told so often of all archæological remains in England. But it may help to stimulate public feeling if it be suggested how much richer the country would have been if all that is recorded in the following pages to have perished or to have been destroyed had been preserved by the provisions of an Act of Parliament.

It has been found necessary, owing to the quantity of material, to divide the volume into two parts. To obviate as much as possible this inconvenience, the two parts will be paged on consecutively, and the notes and index to the whole will be printed in the second part. It is extremely difficult to know how much information to give in the notes. I have been blamed for not extending them; but it must be borne in mind that these volumes do not aim at giving the latest information on any given subject, so much as a gathering together of a hitherto undigested and classified mass of material which is much needed for future research. This material the student will use in his own way, and he will be warned as to the nature of the use to which he can put it by a consideration of its origin as the record, for the most part, of anything but scientific explorers. But while thus passing censure upon those who wrote of their discoveries years ago, we must not forget that but for them all notice might have been irretrievably lost. The notes which, it will be found, are given at the end of Part II. elucidate any serious points in the text, but beyond this they do not pretend to go. To have recorded all that has been found outside the *Gentleman's Magazine* would have been to expand the work into improper proportions, and I have, therefore, contented myself with a slighter work. A comparison of the pavements

described in Mr. Morgan's book with those in this volume I thought would be acceptable ; and as one county—Gloucestershire—has found a student who has collected all the references to its archæological remains, I have also added to the notes a comparison of the finds in this volume with those in Mr. G. B. Witt's *Archæological Handbook of Gloucester*.

A notice of the various contributors to the following pages will be given in the preface to the second part of this volume ; but one name stands out so prominently among the contributors of later times that it would be almost unpardonable not to mention here how clearly it is indicated that Mr. Roach Smith was among the first of the pioneers of a careful and systematic system of excavation and observation. We have him still amongst us, and in giving me sanction to reprint his contributions to the *Gentleman's Magazine* I trust the memories of his early labours will come back pleasantly to him in his Kentish home.

For some slight errors of arrangement, for one or two omissions, which will be added in an appendix, and for some obvious misprints of a slight nature, I must ask indulgence—a request that has hitherto been granted with the greatest kindness.

G. LAURENCE GOMME.

CASTELNAU, BARNES, S.W.

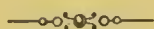








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*Local Discoveries in England.*





## LOCAL DISCOVERIES IN ENGLAND.

### Bedfordshire.

#### BEDFORD.

[1868, *Part II.*, pp. 261, 262.]

THE other day, as the workmen in a gravel-pit near Bedford were removing the upper earth, the subsidence of a portion of the face of the pit showed that the original soil had been disturbed—an appearance which always causes us to look out for Roman or Saxon relics. The section thus made indicated that a small hole about eighteen inches in diameter and two feet deep had been once excavated. The earth filled in was darker than that of the undisturbed sides, and at the bottom there were small fragments of charcoal. I made a careful examination of all the dark earth, and found several fragments of the bright red ware, usually described as Samian. No urn or other relics were there. The red-ware fragments were scrupulously collected, and on attempting to join them together, I discovered that no complete vessel could be made up, but that they were fragments of three distinct vessels—a small bowl, two inches high, one and a half inch diameter at base, four inches at top; a patera, with turned rim, bearing a leaf ornament; and a plain saucer, without rim. Now there was nothing uncommon in the forms of either of these vessels, but the fact of their being found together in a so-called grave, all imperfect—a circumstance which I have observed several times before—is noteworthy. I have been impressed with the idea, that fragments as well as perfect vessels were deposited on certain occasions, and I beg to offer it for the consideration of better antiquaries than myself. There is reason to believe that this red-ware was imported into this country, and that it was much valued by the Romans, as well as by the natives. We know that the Saxons highly esteemed it. In ancient graves found near Bedford and elsewhere, pieces of Samian ware have been discovered with undoubted Saxon remains, and these fragments of red-ware have been worked into discs and

spindle-whorls. Is it not probable that when this pottery was broken, the fragments were still esteemed as articles of rarity, or, from having been used by certain persons, were deposited with their ashes by surviving relatives or friends? That this ware was imported, I think there is evidence in the small bowl above described. It bears the stamp of TIBERI · M, who it is known was a Romano-Gaulish manufacturer of this pottery, on the banks of the Allier, near the present village of Toulon, and a little out of the highroad from Paris. In *The Gentleman's Magazine*, Dec., 1860, and the "Collectanea Antiqua," vol. vi., notices are given of the potteries there discovered, with illustrations from an elaborate work by M. Edward Tudot on the subject of the Romano-Gaulish Fictilia. One of M. Tudot's illustrations is an autograph of this Tiberius the potter inscribed on a piece of ware with a stylus; and the cut is also given in the "Collectanea," at page 68. [See Note 1.]

JAMES WYATT.

### Berks.

#### BLEWBERRY.

[1838, *Part I.*, pp. 47, 48.]

I have now to invite the attention of your readers to some Roman remains in the parish of Blewbury or Blewberry, as it is variously spelt, the greater part of which lies in a detached part of the hundred of Reading, and is situated about four miles north-east by north from East Ilsley. This parish contains the chapelries of Aston Upthorpe and Upton, in the former of which, about a mile distant from the village of Blewbury, is situate Bluberdon or Blewbarton Hill, round which are several intrenchments which in some parts are fast disappearing by the operations of the plough; on the Blewbury side of the hill, which is by far the most interesting, they remain in very fine preservation, and we are enabled to trace six perfect intrenchments, and portions of a seventh. A communication between the several intrenchments, widening gradually from the upper to the lower part, where its breadth is about forty yards, enabled the soldiers to meet from the several terraces therein, and pour forth in a formidable body upon the plain. From the brow of the hill a good view is obtained of Sinodun Camp, the Willenham Hill of the present day, which is distant about six miles.

Lowborough Hill, in the chapelry of Aston Upthorpe, is one of the highest spots in Berkshire, and commands on the south an extensive view as far as Beacon Hill, near Whitechurch, Hants; to the west, along Cuckhamsly or Cwichelmes-low-hill, to Faringdon; and northwards, the eye wanders beyond Oxford and the Wittenham hills. On the summit of Lowborough, a careful examination of the turf detects a slight elevation of it over the walls of buildings, the foundations of which are hidden beneath; it incloses an area about fifty-six yards



long, by forty-three yards wide. Within and around it, are found numerous fragments of Roman pottery, bricks, and tiles, and the site of the foundations is still more clearly traced on closer inspection by means of the moles, which throw up along the lines of the several walls small portions of the foundations intermixed with the soil. Without the walls on the east side, are immense quantities of oyster-shells, immediately below the turf; and on the south side is a well or pond, which is pitched up the sides and at the bottom. On the north is a barrow of circular form, but not of great height. I learned from the information of Job Lousley, Esq., of Hampstead Norris, that great numbers of Roman coins had at various times been found on this hill; and that in a field called the Stad, at Compton, not far distant from this place, very numerous discoveries of Roman coins had been made at different periods and to a considerable extent.

Yours, etc. JOHN RICHARDS, JUN.

BRAY.

[1795, *Part II.*, pp. 629, 630.]

I have often wished that our antiquaries would unite their exertions to compose a map accurately and completely illustrative of the Roman topography of this island. I am aware the work would be long and laborious; but it could be performed with less difficulty now than when a longer time shall have elapsed from the period of the Roman invasion; and it could also be better performed. The antiquaries are in possession of sufficient proofs whereon to ground such an illustration. Numerous are the Roman *vestigia* exposed to sight, and many are the collections of Roman curiosities open to inspection. Much of the trouble and expense that would attend making farther enquiries would be found to be done away by the readiness with which you, Mr. Urban, forward in your Magazine inquiries of that nature; and your publication is also a ready vehicle for the conveyance of voluntary intimations conducive to the perfecting such a plan. It is to offer a mite of that sort that I trouble you, Mr. Urban, with this letter. I neither pretend to make positive assertions, nor to detail *minutiæ*; but I submit circumstances and reports that may lead to the discovery, investigation, and elucidation of facts. The parish of Bray, in the county of Berks, claims, but has never had, the attention of a modern antiquary. This parish is situated between Windsor and Maidenhead bridge, and is bounded on the north-east by the river Thames, on the bank of which the church stands. To say more of the place than what is connected with Roman antiquity would be foreign to my purpose; and, therefore, I proceed to mention, that a short piece of a Roman highway was thought, some years ago, to have been discovered between the river and the east corner of the church-yard; and, certain it is, that several Roman coins, together with fragments of armour and weapons, have been at different times

ploughed up in the Easthay, a common-field lying on the east side of Bray town. As Bray parish is large (being a whole hundred), it takes in part of the waste called (now improperly, because there has not been within the memory of man either bush or tree on it) Maidenhead Thicket, on which are the outlines of a camp; and, towards the south-east, it comprehends part of St. Leonard's hill, in Windsor Forest; where, in a wood just without the verge, may still be seen the hole out of which were dug, some years ago, a Roman lamp and several other articles.

INCOMPERTUS.

#### CHADDLEWORTH.

[1827, *Part II.*, p. 448.]

While some labourers were lately employed in taking up some Roman pavement in a field near the farm-house of Mr. Millet (the property of John Wasey, Esq.), called Ploughley, in Chaddleworth, Berkshire, they found a flat stone, upon which was curiously cut a cross, above which were the following letters, and the number 91 immediately above: I O R O U I O O V S 91 R O B : P O R I. Upon removing this stone, which was 6 feet in length, it was found to cover a grave which contained two perfect human skeletons. These, on being touched, immediately broke to pieces. Skeletons and many other relics have been found in that neighbourhood before.

#### NEWBURY.

[1827, *Part I.*, pp. 161, 162.]

A discovery of rather a curious nature has taken place in the neighbourhood of Newbury. As a servant belonging to Mr. Aldridge was clearing out a drain which ran into a heap of rubbish near the premises, he struck upon an ashlar stone which appeared to cross the drain, and, on lifting it up, discovered an ancient vase, which, from its shape and other circumstances, proves itself to be of Roman origin. The vase is about 7 inches high, the lower part cylindrically formed, terminating in an elegantly-shaped neck; and, judging from its colour, it is of that composition which historians call the *Samian Jet*. The letters D : O M : in one line, and S : M : L : in another under it, are visibly impressed upon it, but there are others which have not yet been deciphered. In the vase was a deposit of dark-coloured ashes, which had evidently been calcined, a small piece of iron or steel about 2 inches long, fixed in a sort of handle of horn, on which are impressed, rather indistinctly, the letters P : R : M. There are also two small coins, the literal inscription obliterated, but on the side of one of them is a female figure with a spear.

#### PANGBOURN.

[1838, *Part II.*, p. 650.]

Some interesting discoveries have been recently made at Shooter's Hill, near Pangbourn, Berks, on the line of the Great Western Rail-

way. Several human skeletons, in a high state of preservation, have been disinterred, together with small sepulchral urns, of rude workmanship, but elegant and classical devices, and upwards of forty Roman coins, of gold, silver, and brass, of the reigns of Domitian, Constantine, Julian the Apostate, Constantius, Gracianus, Licinius or Lupicinius the Pro-prætor (who was invested with regal authority), and several others. Spear-heads, battle-axes, and spurs of British and Roman manufacture, were also found ; and some of the graves contained considerable masses of charcoal, without bones. The bones are well preserved, having lain in dry gravel, about four feet from the surface, immediately overlaying the chalk ; and one of the skulls appears heavier and more consolidated than is natural.

## STANFORDBURY.

[1834, *Part II.*, p. 417.]

At Stanfordbury, near Shefford, some labourers were lately employed by E. W. Brayley, Esq., and Mr. Inskipp, for two days in exploring further the Roman remains of which some account has already been published in Brayley's "*Graphic Illustrator*." They found an armlet of jet, a small silver girdle-buckle, some stone rings, the remaining part of the wind instrument mentioned in the *Graphic Illustrator*, a fibula, remains of urns, and pateræ, brass pins, extremely corroded, and an imperfect portion of an iron vessel ornamented with a species of Silenus mask. There was a large camp at Stanfordbury, which Mr. Brayley considers was probably equestrian. It would communicate with the Roman station *Sakænæ*. They had an extensive burial-place at Shefford.

## Bucks.

## BUCKINGHAM.

[1838, *Part I.*, p. 302.]

A Roman villa has been recently found within two miles of Buckingham, on the road to Stony Stratford, on a farm belonging to his Grace the Duke of Buckingham, who has given directions that the whole of the foundations shall be explored. A frigidarium and caldarium (cold and warm bath) lined with red-coloured stucco, and a quantity of loose tesserae, which composed the floor of one of the adjoining rooms, probably the undressing-room, have been found. Large square hollow tiles, evidently used to warm the sudatoria or sweating rooms, have been dug out ; also another floor, composed of loose red tesserae, and a coin, the reverse of which bears the cross and the alpha and omega, indicating that it was struck subsequently to the time of Constantine, and probably by one of his sons, or the usurper Decentius, whose head and coin it most resembles, though the inscription is illegible.



## FESCOTE.

[1841, *Part I.*, pp. 81.]

The Duke of Buckingham and Chandos still continues the excavations of the Roman villa at Fescote, Bucks, on the farm of Mr. Roper. Many interesting discoveries have been made, amongst which is a wooden spout or tube, which, when uncovered at the top, threw up water the height of several feet. Oak piles have also been taken out, the wood of which is perfectly sound.

[1843, *Part I.*, pp. 303.]

At the meeting of the Oxford Ashmolean Society, held on Monday, February 13th, the Marquis of Chandos exhibited a plan of the excavations of a Roman villa at Foxcote, near Buckingham, together with several coins and some fragments of fossil coal found at the same place. The excavations are situated about a mile and a half from Buckingham, on the north of the road leading to Stony Stratford, at the foot of the hill, and about one hundred yards from the highroad. Until the year 1837, the farmers in the neighbourhood had been in the habit of digging up the old foundations whenever they were in want of stone, at which period the layer of the two baths was discovered. The last excavation took place in 1842-3. The tank marked A in the plan contains a spring which ran through wooden trunks of trees to a larger tank. When first discovered the walls were covered with a red stucco, which, however, fell off during the second year of its exposure to the air. The greatest height of any of the remaining walls did not exceed three feet above the floor, and were generally not more than one foot. A leaden pipe communicated from the larger bath to a small circular place, which seemed to have contained some vessel for heating water. In another room was found a small stone column, and near it a large salver, nearly 16 inches in diameter. It appears to be composed of tin, with a slight proportion of silver, and in the same room was found a small vase, apparently of the same metal, but much more corroded. A large square tessellated pavement was found in an adjacent room, and other fragments in a less perfect condition. The general thickness of the walls was 2 feet 3 inches for the main walls, and 1 foot 8 inches for the remainder. The courses were not regular in thickness, varying from 3 to 10 inches. The coins consisted of copper coins of Constantine, Commodus, etc.

## LEE.

[1795, *Part I.*, p. 12.]

There was lately found upon Lee Common, about three miles from Wendover, by a labourer who was digging the ground, a Roman image. Upon hearing of this, I went on purpose to see it, and pur-



chased it. It is the figure of an old man ; the features and countenance are very expressive ; it appears to have a compassionate look, with its arms extended. It has a crown upon its head ornamented with pearls, and its vestment is inlaid with purple. The composition of this image appears to be copper, of considerable thickness, and washed with gold. It is about 8 or 10 inches in length, and remarkably well-proportioned. It appears to me that it has been an object of adoration, and should imagine it must have lain in this obscure situation many hundred years in the ground. I will send it you soon to take a drawing of it ; and, if any of your numerous readers can inform me for what use or purpose this image has been made, it will be esteemed a favour.

T. MALLISON.

LONG CRENDON—BRILL—BOARSTALL.

[1831, *Part I.*, pp. 580-582.]

Crendon Park is the only one in the county of Buckingham mentioned in Domesday Book. It seems probable that the Conqueror's followers appropriated to themselves the seats of the Saxon chiefs, as the latter had before fixed their abode in places, at a still earlier period the residence of the aboriginal inhabitants of distinguished rank. The names of Cony-gaer and El or Eld Burgh support this conjecture, which is further confirmed by the discovery of an ancient cemetery at Angle-Way near Cop-Hill, north-east of the Church, on a conspicuous eminence, and near the supposed site of the Castle of the Giffards.

This cemetery being casually opened in 1824, on making a new road, has been since more completely explored ; and has presented some curious relics of Roman pottery, and proofs of various modes of burial at different periods in the same spot—many skeletons being found regularly interred, and near them abundant and satisfactory indications of cremation and urn burial ; great quantities of ashes, scorïæ, and semi-vitrified masses ; together with vast numbers of fragments of urns and other vessels, bones of large quadrupeds, and of birds, promiscuously intermingled. It is remarkable, however, that, although no discovery has been hitherto made of interments here, which can be certainly identified with those which are usually assigned to the ancient Britons, the only metallic substances found amongst these deposits (besides the rings about to be described) have been small portions of two battle-axes or heads of spears, entirely corroded, so as even to render their shape doubtful.

The accompanying representations will convey, more intelligibly than verbal description alone, the appearance of these relics ; but it will excite regret that so little care was taken by the discoverers to preserve in their more perfect state these interesting memorials of ancient days.

An urn of blue clay unglazed, ten inches and a half high, three-eighths of an inch thick, four inches in diameter at the brim, three at the bottom, and twenty-four in circumference, has been re-composed by cementing together more than fifty fragments, and presents the most perfect specimen dug up. It has no ornament, except a narrow line around the lower part of the neck, and another below the greatest rotundity, with small knobs resembling nailheads at regular intervals, like those which are observable in basket-work.

A small portion of another urn, of large size, shows that its diameter at the brim was six inches, its thickness exceeding an inch, and its height, at least, three feet, having handles five inches in circumference, conjoined to the neck and belly of the vessel, which is of coarse yellowish ware, and after exposure to the atmosphere acquired a reddish tint. This is quite plain, has the marks of the lathe perfect, and appears to have been coated with varnish, or some composition, which separates from the inner surface in thin flakes or layers. Besides ashes and portions of burnt bones (common to all the urns, whether large or small), and amongst which were minute parts of the bones of some bird, were found seven rings of brass, so much decayed that the stones set in most, if not all of them, were corroded and destroyed. Two of them, which were compressed, so as not to form a complete circle, had portions of wire apparently attached, and might have been ear-pendants. Those most perfect are here represented.

Fragments of urns, of white clay imperfectly burnt—and from which sand, or micaceous grit, was easily detached—were likewise found. One of them retained on the inner surface the indentations of the fingers of the manufacturer; but differed little in form from the large urn, excepting that the handles are flat.

The number of small urns was very considerable, but being broken, either wantonly or carelessly, by the persons who found them, could not be exactly ascertained. There were also discovered eight pateræ of beautiful red Samian ware, each  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  deep, having a small rim or stand; and in the middle of the interior the stamp of the potter in raised Roman capitals, which may be read, OF. L. Q. VIRIL. *Officina Lucii Quinti Virilis*; but some of the pateræ retain the form of the letters less perfectly; and this interpretation is not insisted upon as correct.

A small incense pot of the same fabric, the shape of which may be described by two half circles, the larger above the smaller, and intersecting it, was likewise found, with a circular stamp or cypher at its bottom. This was so very light, as to have been at first mistaken for wood.

A lamp, which was quite perfect, and of the same ware, is here shown of half the size of the original.

The conspicuous elevation of the spot, its vicinity to ancient

British trackways, the neighbourhood of roads popularly ascribed to the Romans, and certainly formed in the course of still more ancient lines of communication, seem to render these objects more deserving of notice than their intrinsic beauty; and they confirm the belief that the arts and manufactures introduced into Britain by the Roman invaders found an early imitation amongst the native inhabitants, it being reasonable to infer, from the number and quality of the fragments discovered, that there was a pottery near at hand.

At Brill (a term which Stukeley conjectured with probability to be a corruption of Bury-hill, an indication of Roman station) is a portion of soil mentioned by Kennet as fit "for the best brick and earthen vessells." The natural productions of the soil have immemorially employed many of the inhabitants of Brill, and from the number of fragments of ancient pottery bearing a close resemblance to that of the Romanized Britons, found in the neighbourhood, it may fairly be conjectured, that, even at that early period, a manufactory of this description was established there.

At the disafforesting of Bernwode it was especially provided, by an order of the Court of Chancery, that "many artificers of Brill having received employment by making brick, *tyle, lyme, and potts, out of the soyle* of Brill hills," which could not be cultivated without the great impoverishment of such artificers, an allotment of 18 acres of the King's lands, and 30 acres of Sir John Dynham's, should thenceforth be commonable for the artificers, cottagers, and poorer inhabitants—the lord of the manor letting the pits for digging the materials, but being restrained from advancing the rents.

The pottery is still carried on, but the trade is not in a flourishing state, the condition of the roads, increased price of fuel, and expenses of carriage, having co-operated to its disadvantage.

At Boarstall, in the vicinity of Brill, very numerous fragments of small cone-shaped pots, like smelting crucibles, have been frequently dug up.

Within the last few weeks, since the printing of Dr. Lipscomb's work, a pot of small Roman coins (some of Claudius, but the greater number much corroded) was found at Crendon, near the spot of the former discoveries.

G. L.

#### OLNEY.

[1857, *Part I.*, p. 2.]

In a field north of the town of Olney, the plough is continually bringing to light the remains of Roman pottery, coins, etc. Is there any *historical evidence* to prove that a Roman station existed here?

Yours, etc. W. P. STORER.



## THORNBOROUGH.

[1840, *Part I.*, p. 78.]

On a farm belonging to the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, near Thornborough Field, Bucks, there are two ancient Barrows, one of which has recently been opened under the directions of his Grace, by the labour of a dozen men, in about ten days, it being above 20 feet high and nearly 40 across. The excavation was commenced by cutting a trench right down the centre ; and by this operation it appeared that the barrow was composed of alternate layers of clay, sand, and mould, which continued until the trench was cut down to the original level of the ground. On reaching this, a large and long layer of rough limestone presented itself, on which were found various bronze ornaments in an excellent state of preservation. Amongst them was a very curious lamp, beautifully shaped, formed of bronze, and totally different in pattern to any hitherto discovered—and so perfect, and taken up with such care, that the wick was actually to be seen in the lamp. Two large and elegant bronze vases, a large dish, a bowl, and the hilt of a sword were also taken out without damage, as well as a small ornament of purest gold, with the figure of a Cupid most elaborately and elegantly chased upon it. A large glass vessel covered over with a thick piece of oaken planking was also discovered, but, owing to the weight of the superincumbent earth, it was cracked and broken, but not so much so but that within it were detected the ashes and fragments of the bones of the individual whose remains had been interred. These curious relics are all taken to Stow House, the seat of his Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, to be placed in the Museum, by the side of other Roman remains, which were found some months ago at a Roman villa within a mile of these magnificent sepulchral mounds. The site of these barrows is near a bridge, where formerly there was a ford ; and rows of skeletons have been repeatedly dug up near the spot, indicating that some battle had been fought there. Bishop Kennet, in his “Parochial Antiquities,” tells us that the Romans under Aulus Plautius, having driven the Britons out of Oxfordshire into Bucks, had a severe engagement with them *on the Ouse, at or near* Buckingham, when the latter were defeated under the two sons of Cunobelin. This spot, being within a mile and a half of Buckingham, was probably the scene of the battle, and the two barrows monuments raised by the Romans over two of their lost generals. The other barrow is within 100 yards of the one which has been recently explored, and will probably be cut through when the weather becomes more favourable for such operations.



## HIGH WYCOMBE.

[1817, *Part II.*, p. 551.]

A Roman mosaic pavement, of considerable extent, and in fine preservation, has been discovered in the garden of J. Matthie, Esq., of High Wycombe, 3 feet below the surface. Langley, the historian of the Hundred of Desborough, mentions a similar discovery as having been made in the grounds of the Earl of Shelburne, in the same vicinity, about sixty years since. [Also reported in 1829, *Part I.*, p. 546.]

## Cambridgeshire.

## CAMBRIDGE.

[1813, *Part I.*, pp. 524, 525.]

I send you a few particulars respecting two interesting fragments of antiquity, discovered in the vicinity of Cambridge. (Figs. 6, 7.)

In the month of October last my attention was excited by an oblong stone, projecting from a bank near the highroad between Cambridge and Huntingdon, nearly three miles from the former town. On investigation, it proved to be the mutilated remnant of a Roman monument, partly covered with large but rude and irregular characters, which are considerably injured by the corroding effects of the atmosphere. Some of the letters, particularly in the third line, which is not so deeply relieved as the rest, are almost illegible.

The substance of the stone is a marine aggregate in a calcareous matrix; and it weighs probably 2 cwt. Its form is cylindrical, and its dimensions are, 33 inches in length by  $12\frac{1}{2}$  in diameter. The following is an accurate transcript of the inscription; the characters of which, with the assistance of Mr. Harding, of Pembroke College, I partly succeeded in restoring:

“IMP. CAES. FLAVI. *constantino* V. LEG. *constantino*. PIO. NOB. CAES.”

Professor Clarke, of this University, to whose inspection I submitted the monument, politely undertook to decipher the imperfect characters; and ascertained that it was erected in the reign of the Emperor Constantine, by the fifth legion, and dedicated to his son, Constantinus Pius, to whom many memorials of this nature were inscribed in various parts of the Roman empire.\*

On referring to Lyson's “*Britannia*,” I observe that the present highway from Cambridge to Huntingdon is of Roman origin, having been the line of communication between Durolipons and Granta, which were both important military stations under the Cæsars.

The monument may therefore have been simply commemorative of some local incident of trivial moment, perhaps of the formation or

\* Grüter's “*Roman Antiquities*.”

repair of the road, since its unadorned simplicity almost precludes the supposition of its being a memento of any very important transaction. I do not imagine that it was designed for a *milliare*, or mile-stone, as the inscription has no reference to distance or situation.

A few weeks subsequent to the discovery of the singular monument just described, I was induced to renew my search, and succeeded in bringing to light another fragment, on which the letters 'LISSIMVS CAESAR' are distinctly legible. These characters appear to have been traced with greater accuracy and precision than those inscribed on the other fragment, of which, on a cursory view, it might be supposed to form the base, particularly as it was lying immediately contiguous; but a closer examination forbids that conjecture, the substance of the stones being different, and their dimensions by no means corresponding.\*

I should not omit to mention that numerous fragments of pottery were found on the spot, indicating that a funeral vase was deposited there, perhaps by Roman soldiers, as a tribute to some deceased companion in arms, whose ashes the urn may have contained.

HENRY L. BIDEN.

[1844, *Part I.*, pp. 524, 525.]

Mr. Deck of Cambridge has collected an abundance of Roman remains, some obtained from the site of the old castle recently levelled to make way for improvements in that part of the town, others derived from excavations in Jesus and Emmanuel lanes; and no small quantity obtained from Comberton, Trumpington, and the Bartlow Hills. These consisted of Roman bricks, cinerary urns, and other pottery ware of divers quality and for various purposes, several curious articles in bronze and other metals, glass, coins of Vespasian and Antoninus Pius, portions of the human skeleton, fresco paintings, etc. etc. Mr. Deck is enabled, from his practical knowledge as a chemist, to account for the remarkable changes which some of the specimens have undergone by the action of the air, damp, and other causes. [See *post*, p. 16.]

[1844, *Part II.*, p. 306.]

A Roman armilla, or military bracelet, has been found by a labourer in a fen five miles from Cambridge. It has five coils, 3 inches in diameter each; is of the finest gold, and weighs between five and six ounces.

COMBERTON.

[1842, *Part II.*, p. 526.]

The remains of what is supposed to have been a Roman villa have been found at Comberton, five miles from Cambridge. Through

\* It is an aggregate of sand, intermixed with numerous marine depositions. † Its dimensions are, 44 inches long, by 14 broad.

the kindness of Mr. Wittred, the proprietor of the land, excavations have been made in various parts of the field in which the discovery was made. A tumulus situated about 200 yards north of the first excavation was expected to yield matter of interest, but this expectation was not realized. The most interesting part of the remains is a building hexagonal in form, the walls of which were 2 feet thick, and the sides 10 feet long: in it were found abundance of broken pottery of all shapes and materials, iron nails of large size, and a fine lump of bronze metal. No tesseraic work was discovered. Fresco painting in variety of patterns—several pieces of glass, one of them evidently part of a drinking-cup—and some handsome fragments of Samian ware, corroborate the opinion that the residence was one of importance. During the excavation many human bones, in good preservation, were found, as well as abundance of ashes and charcoal.

## ICKLETON.

[1848, *Part II.*, p. 633.]

Some excavations made at this place, under the directions of the Hon. R. C. Neville, have disclosed some interesting Roman remains. The foundations, which are of considerable extent, have been carefully surveyed and drawn by Mr. J. C. Buckler, who pronounces them to be of singularly interesting character. The furnaces, flues, bars, and other things pertaining to the hypocaust are clearly developed; and, to judge from the present appearance, it would seem that the excavators are at work on the site of some ancient town, so that at present there is no appearance of a termination of the work. Coins, accompanied by other Roman remains usually found in these operations, have occurred in considerable numbers.

## LITLINGTON.

[1821, *Part I.*, p. 462.]

As some labourers were lately digging for gravel in the open fields of Litlington, County Cambridge, they discovered the foundation of a wall, within which were deposited some human bones. Upon investigation it was ascertained that the foundation of the wall enclosed a quadrangular area of 34 yards by 24, running parallel to, and at the distance of about 10 yards from an ancient Roman road, called the Ashwell Street, which was the line of communication between the Roman station at Ashwell and that at Chesterford. Within this area are found a number of Roman urns, quite perfect, of various sizes and forms, containing bones and ashes; also a variety of pateræ, patellæ, simpula, some with one handle, some with two; ampullæ and lacrymatories of different sizes and shapes. The urns are composed of a red and others of a black argillaceous earth: those of the red are much the hardest and most durable; many of the black being in a state of great decay, and when disturbed by the



spade of the labourer, have fallen to pieces. There has hitherto been only one coin found, and that is a coin of Trajan, with the head of a Trajan on one side, and on the reverse Britannia leaning upon a shield, with "BRIT." underneath; but as labourers are employed in making researches, it is hoped that further discoveries may still be made. There have been already at least 80 bodies found, some of which apparently have been buried in coffins of wood, as a number of iron nails greatly corroded have been dug out of the graves. The spot of ground upon which this discovery has been made is called in ancient deeds "Heaven's Walls," and lies at the bottom of a hill, on the summit of which is a tumulus called "Limbury," and sometimes "Limblow Hill."

[1829, *Part I.*, p. 546.]

Extensive remains of a Roman villa were lately disturbed at Litlington, in Cambridgeshire. The pavements were unfortunately destroyed by the curiosity of the uninformed; but the curate of Steeple Morden was enabled to make drawings of the most highly-ornamented, and has removed one to a coach-house in Pembroke Lane, Cambridge, belonging to the Eagle Inn.

[1838, *Part II.*, p. 181.]

A fine and perfect specimen of a Roman sword was lately ploughed up in a field at Litlington, Cambridgeshire. It is formed of the celebrated bronze metal, is about 18 inches in length, two-edged, and of elegant form, and in an extraordinary state of preservation, considering the long period it has been buried. Mr. Deck, chemist, of Cambridge, possesses this curious relic. [See *ante*, p. 14.]

#### SAWSTON.

[1816, *Part II.*, pp. 173, 174.]

As some labourers were digging in a gravel-pit, on what is commonly called Huckeridge Hill, near Sawston, in the county of Cambridge, they discovered the remains of a human skeleton, about 3 feet below the surface of the ground. At the feet of the skeleton stood two vessels of brass ornamented on the rim; and on the left side were found fragments of pottery and a sword. On the 5th inst. they met with two spear-heads, etc., in the same pit. These relics, though much injured by time, are worth the notice of an antiquary. The brass vessel and sword are in the possession of the Rev. Dr. E. D. Clarke; the spear-heads and fragments of pottery were purchased by M. D. Duffield, Esq., F.S.A. Several spear-heads and celts were discovered near the same place a few years ago. (See *Gentleman's Magazine*, Vol. LXXXV., ii., p. 26.) [See Note 2.] From the contiguity to Vandlebury (Gog-Magog), they may be supposed to be Roman.



## WHITTLESEY.

[1850, *Part II.*, p. 296.]

A gold ring was lately ploughed up on the Roman road near Whittlesey. It weighs  $14\frac{1}{2}$  dwt. There is engraved upon it EYTOAM in characters which are as late, if not later, than the time of Domitian. The motto, which is probably a contraction of Εὐτολμος, is appropriate enough for a soldier, to whom the ring may have belonged.

## Cheshire.

## CHESTER.

[1829, *Part I.*, p. 70.]

In excavating a deep sewer under the road leading to the intended new bridge at Chester, was lately found a Roman stylus of ivory, in an excellent state of preservation, about 4 inches in length, and about the thickness of a goose-quill. Another stylus was found about forty years ago, in Martin's Ash, in that city. It is made of brass, with an ornamental head, and is now in the possession of Mr. John Lowe, goldsmith. Near the spot where the ivory stylus has now been found (that is, in Nuns' garden, near the castle), the men discovered, also, a piece of red Roman pottery, being the half of a female face, most beautifully delineated in relief. Also, a small silver coin of Severus, in fine preservation, on the obverse of which is a head; inscription, "SEVERUS PIUS AUG." On the reverse, a female sitting, with an olive branch in her right hand, on the left a trident; inscription, "RESTITUTOR ORBIS."

[1837, *Part I.*, p. 641.]

In the course of the alterations proceeding at Chester Castle, a fine remnant of Roman masonry is brought into view: it had been obscured for ages within the lower buildings of the old governor's house. Cleared of the bricks and coating with which it had been faced up, it now exhibits the perfect Roman arch. In the after-construction of the tower (the present magazine), presumed to be Norman, this arch was made available for its support, one of the massive angels being raised upon and shouldered on it.

[1852, *Part II.*, p. 182.]

At Chester recent excavations have brought to light a fragment of a Roman sarcophagus or sepulchral monument. It has been ornamented with masks at the upper angles, and with the representation of a recumbent figure upon a couch. Like many of the Roman sculptures, it has evidently been intentionally disfigured by the early Christians. A solid gold torque ring weighing  $13\frac{1}{2}$  dwts. has also been found.

[1863, *Part II.*, p. 67.]

A valued correspondent writes to apprise us of the fact that another Roman hypocaust was discovered at Chester on the 25th of June last. The site is about 25 feet square, and 60 pillars, averaging 12 inches each, have already been disclosed, although the northern part of the area had not been explored. Our correspondent has made application to the Marquis of Westminster, who is the owner of the land, and no doubt everything will be done by his lordship to preserve this interesting relic from wanton or careless destruction. In our next month's number we trust that we shall be able to give our readers a complete account of the discovery.

[1863, *Part II.*, p. 209.]

Last month we announced that a Roman hypocaust had been discovered at Chester, on the site where stood the Feathers Hotel and several other buildings, which have been taken down for town improvements by the Marquis of Westminster. His lordship was made acquainted with the existence of the hypocaust, and gave instructions for its preservation. Further curious discoveries have since been made. On excavating to the north of the hypocaust, the workmen came upon the base of a Roman pillar, which is 27 inches across the top and 4 feet 4 inches in height. A portion of the shaft of the pillar (about 7 feet in length) was found lying in a north-easterly direction; it was fractured in places. The base rests on a square block of red sandstone, which stands on the maiden rock: it is 4 feet 8 inches in length and 22 inches in height. At a distance of 5 feet 9 inches the base of a second Roman pillar has been discovered, of similar moulding and proportion to the first; and three similar bases have since been found, running in a direct line with the other three from east to west; a portion of one of the capitals has also been found among the rubbish. A number of ccins have been discovered, the majority of them being those of Claudius Gothicus, Constantius II., and Constans.

[1865, *Part II.*, p. 30.]

Within the last few days some workmen employed in repairing one of the buttresses of the city walls, on the Roodee side, near the Dec Stands, discovered a male skeleton, lying north and south, about 3 feet from the ground surface. There were no indications of any coffin, etc. Other human remains were found near. The skeleton is very perfect, and would measure about 5 feet 10 inches. The teeth were sound and complete in number. Near the remains were found two Roman denarii in excellent preservation. The one reads, obverse, "IMP NERVA CAES AVG PM TRP COS II PP," laureated head; reverse, "AEQVITAS AVGVST," usual type. The other reads, reverse, "IMP M

OTHO CAESAR AVG TRP," simple head; obverse, "SECVRITAS PR," female standing with hasta and garland. Whether or not there has been any connection between the figure and the coins we do not pronounce an opinion; we simply record the fact of the discovery.

#### GREAT BOUGHTON.

[1823, *Part II.*, p. 388.]

The Roman altar, of which I subjoin a sketch, was found in March, 1821, in a garden or field, called the "Daniels," in Great Boughton, Chester, near the junction of the ancient Roman roads to Mancunium and Mediolanum. It was discovered in a bed of marl, intermixed with sand, in a reclining posture, detached from the pedestal, which was a square stone 6 inches thick. The whole was covered with a mass of stones and rubbish, probably the remains of a building in which the altar was at one period deposited.

The field is on all sides surrounded by abundant springs of fine water, and the "Fountains," to which it was dedicated, probably burst forth their pellucid treasures in the immediate vicinity in which it was dug up. The height of the altar is 4 feet; the middle part of the column is 2 feet; the base and capital 2 feet 3 inches; the *thuribulum* is about 1 inch in depth, circular, and nearly 8 inches diameter. The inscription is: [Huebner, p. 49]

NYMPHIS

ET

FONTIBUS,

LEG. XX.

V. V.

Which may be rendered, "The Twentieth Legion—the Mighty—the Victorious, to the Nymphs and Fountains."

Several Roman altars have been found in Chester. In 1653 an altar, dedicated to Jupiter the Thunderer by the 20th Legion, was discovered in Forgate Street, and is now amongst the Arundelian Marbles at Oxford; in 1693, one erected by Flavius Longinus, of the 20th Legion, in Eastgate Street, in the possession of the Rev. C. Prescott, of Stockport; and in 1779, one dedicated to Esculapius, now the property of Sir John Grey Egerton, of Oulton Park, Bart.

The 20th Legion, of which for so long a period Chester was the principal station, was not composed of mercenary troops, but of citizens of Rome.

The altar I am now particularly describing to you was purchased by our noble and magnificent neighbour the Earl Grosvenor. It is deposited in a beautiful octagonal Gothic temple, erected purposely for its reception, on the south side of the sheet of water facing the east front of Eaton House, the splendid seat of the noble Earl.

Yours, etc. J. H. HANSHALL,



## Cumberland.

## BEWCASTLE.

[1792, *Part II.*, pp. 1074-1075.]

The church and castle of Bew-castle, anciently Bothe-castre, or Bueth-castre (see Camden), situated in the vicinity of the Roman Maiden Way, between Haltwhistle and Jedburgh, seems to have been built on the ruins of a large Roman city, about 200 yards square, encompassed with a deep and broad ditch and wall. The foundations of houses, and the course of the streets, all along the area, may still be traced. A heavy gloomy castle, now also in ruins, together with the church, the parsonage-house, and some other buildings, have all clearly been built out of the stones of this ancient city, or station. Some Roman altars have lately been dug up at it. Leaden pipes have also frequently been found in the fields, leading from a copious well of fine water; and to the west, about half a mile distant, there still are some remains of the fortifications.

A few years ago, as some labourers were trenching a small piece of ground for a garden, they dug up the hearthstones and floors of several houses, and several cubes of tessellated pavement; but, as there was then no person in the neighbourhood who had any knowledge or taste for antiquities, no farther search nor inquiry was made. The place, indeed, has never been explored with that care and skill which it certainly merits.

Not more than ten years since, in digging a grave, the remains of a sword and some coins were found. There is reason to believe they were curious and valuable. Unfortunately, the gravedigger gave them to a dealer in coins in Carlisle, who said he would get them examined by a judge, and then give either the value of them, or return them. We cannot learn that he did either.

It is much to be regretted that neither this place nor the Roman antiquities at Netherby have ever been traced and examined with due care and skill. No county in the kingdom, probably, affords so ample a field for antiquarian research as Cumberland; but adequate motives to engage people in moderate circumstances to undertake so tedious and laborious an investigation have never been proposed to the natives of the county; and, unhappily for us, we are too remote, and perhaps too poor, to engage the attention of our more opulent fellow-citizens of the South, unless by our lakes and mountains, which casually attract some transient tourists, who, however, seldom have leisure to hunt after antiquities. [See Note 3.]

## BURD-OSWALD.

[1746, *p.* 537.]

I send you herewith an inscription on a stone in the south-east wall of Naworth garden, unpublished.



I send also the figures of two altars which were lately dug up at Burd-Oswald above 100 yards without the principal camp, eastward, in a kind of old ruin, which was so destroyed as to leave no conjecture what it might have been, and within about 70 yards of the precipice where the Roman wall crossed the river Irthing. I was sent for to read them, as I had given express orders not to deface any that might be found there. They seem both of the lower empire by the bad execution of the sculpture, and, I think, are to be read after the same manner, excepting the tribune's names.

These altars are the more remarkable, as they make it past doubt that Burd-Oswald was the Roman Amboglana, as asserted in the July Mag., p. 358. [See Note 4.]

## I.

Jovi optimo maximo  
Cohors prima Aelia Dacorum  
Postumiana  
Cui præest Marcus  
Gallicus  
Tribunus

## II.

Jovi optimo Maximo  
Cohors prima AELia  
Dacorum  
Postumi-  
ana cui præest  
Probus Au-  
gendus  
Tribunus.

The ligature in the first stone l. 2. l. A. has not been yet observed by any antiquary, those of the same affinity discovered are É or -E for *le* or *el*, to which this must be now added, which renders their discovery more curious. [Huebner, p. 145.]

The little stone is the greatest rarity, and being situated behind a bush escaped observation. I read it PEDITUM CENTUM QUINQUAGINTA BRITANNORUM. We never knew before this that the Romans indulged any national troops the favour of garrisoning their own territories; but here are 150 BRITISH foot assigned to that use; whether that was at Burd-Oswald or elsewhere appears not, because we are not positively sure whence some of these stones at Naworth came; many of them are certainly from Burd-Oswald, but to affirm all are so would be taking too much upon me, till future discoveries explain the matter.

For the sake of the lovers of antiquity I take pains to rake into these ruins, and shall be pleased if any service might thence ensue to the commonwealth of learning.

Yours, etc.

GEORGE SMITH.

[1752, pp. 105-108.]

In a journey to the north of England, in August last, I had the opportunity of observing some of the remains of the Roman walls in that country, and of particularly examining several of the ruined stations belonging to them. I had no thoughts, then, of troubling you, or anyone else, with my sentiments concerning any pieces of antiquity; my intention, at that time, reaching not farther than my own amusement. If I had, I might in some respects, perhaps, have been more exact; but I believe I may venture to say that in the copies of the following inscriptions no mistake has been committed that is material. I met with them at Burd-Oswald and Carrvoran, formerly the stations of Amboglanna and Magna; and since they have not, as far as I know, been yet made public, if you think proper to insert them in your Magazine, they and the observations upon them are at your service. See Vol. XVI., p. 358. [See Note 4.]

I am, yours, etc. FRANCIS SWINHOW.

OBSERVATIONS on five Roman inscriptions, after the manner of Mr. Horsley.

I.

*Jovi Optimo Maximo—Cohors prima Ælia Dacorum—Postumiana—cui præest Marcus—Callectus (Cælius)—Superstes Tribunus.* [See Ante, p. 21.]

II.

*Jovi Optimo Maximo—Cohors prima Ælia—Dacorum—Postumiana.* [See Ante, p. 21.]

I., II. The two first are standing in the yard belonging to the farmhouse at Burd-Oswald. I understood from the people of the place that they had dug them up about four or five years ago, within about a stone's-throw of the wall of Severus, and a little to the east of the station. They are both to "Jupiter the best and greatest, by the cohors prima Ælia Dacorum," which cohort is well known to have been stationed at this place. The letters do not seem very well cut, and yet are not so rude and uncouth as they are in many other inscriptions. They are, however, very differently disposed in them, though the stones seem to have been inscribed within a few years of one another. In the first the *O* is in the belly of the *C* in cohors, and the *E* and *L* in the same line are joined together by a ligature; and *DAC* is put for Dacorum. In the second there is no such inequality of letters, and the word Dacorum has been at its full length. The reason of this I take to be, that in the second the name of the commander of the cohort has been shorter than in the first, where it seems to consist of three distinct words, to make room for which, the stones being of the same size, what fills up the second and third line in the other is in this crowded into the second.

Hence it appears that this cohort must have had two commanders at least (though the name of one of them we do not know), during the seven\* years of Postumius's power over the western parts of the empire. For I make no doubt that the third line in the first, and the fourth in the second inscription is to be read *Postumiana*, and that the cohort has the appellation from its taking part with Postumius, one of the thirty tyrants, whose government was acknowledged through all Gaul and Britain, and whose coins are frequently found in our island. We have a short account of him and his son in Trebellius Pollio.† In other inscriptions we find this cohort called Gordiana,‡ from the Emperor Gordian, and Tetriciana§ from Tetricus, another of the thirty tyrants, and a successor of Posthumius. The sense of the appellation Tetriciana is given us only by Mr. Horsley,§ and I think it is well supported by the two inscriptions that we are now considering, which, and those two just now referred to, seem mutually to throw light upon, and confirm each other. The name of the commander in the first inscription seems to have been Marcus Callecus Superstes; or perhaps Marcus Coelius Superstes; for it is not unlikely that the first appearance of an *L* has been really an *E*, and I am apt to think that I have made some mistake in the fifth letter. But, be this as it will, though in the next line we meet with only RS, it does not seem to be too hasty a supposition that the word has been Superstes, as before the *R* there is just space enough for the four first letters, and after it for the three last. We have the same cognomen in other inscriptions;|| and Marcus Coelius Superstes is a name that occurs in Gruter.¶ The appellation *Postumiana* ascertains the time of these inscriptions, for Gallienus began to reign alone about the year 259, which, as appears from Trebellius Pollio, was before Postumius was made emperor in Gaul.\*\* We may therefore reasonably suppose the time of these inscriptions to have been between the years 260 and 267 or 268. I chose "Tribunus" to complete the first inscription, because in other inscriptions, this cohort appears to have been commanded not by a Præfect, but by a Tribune.†† Of these stones I have only taken the planes on which the inscriptions are, as I saw nothing else observable in them. The ligature of the *EC*, if I have taken that part of the first inscription right, is worth observing.

\* "Hic vir in bello fortissimus," etc., "talem se præbuit per annos septem, ut Gallias instauraverit," etc.—Trebell. Poll. Trigint. Tyrann.

† *Ibid.*

‡ See Camden, page 1039, and Horsley's "Britannia Romana," Cumberland, vii. and viii. § *Ibid.*, p. 253.

|| See Gruter; Gordon's "Itinerarium Septentrionale," pl. 33, fig. 1, p. 75; and Horsley's "Brit. Rom., Northumberland," xxxvi. and lxxxvi.

¶ Page dcccxlvi. 13. See also Boissard, Tom. iv. 73.

\*\* "Cumque ludibriis et belluationi vacaret (Gallienus, etc.) Galli——Postumium ad imperium vocarunt."—Trebell. Poll. Gallieni duo.

†† See Camden, Horsley.



*Diis Manibus — — — Et—Stipendiorum Annorum  
decem — Frater.*

III. This stone lies upon a wall just by a gate at a little distance from the station westward. The letters are well cut, and are deep in the stone. Half of it, if not more, seems to be broken off; so that very little can be known about it, which is a great pity. However, it plainly appears to have been sepulchral; but of the *DM* for *Diis Manibus*, the *D* only is left at the top. An inscription in Gruter tells us of a *Cohors Bracarum* that was once in Britain;\* but that the same cohort is intended here, under the name *Bræcarum*, I will not say. All that can be said about it is that the person to whom that belonged seemed to have served ten years in the army, and that it has been erected to him by his brother. For *STAX* seems to denote *Stipendiorum Annorum decem*; and the last four broken letters of the last line plainly appear either to have stood for *Frater*, or to have been part of the whole word. The stroke near the *T*, in the last line but one, seems only to be an accidental scratch upon the stone.

— *Centuriæ Marii Cohortis quartæ Brittonum Antoniniæ viator*  
—*Hoc Sepulchrum faciendum curavit.*

IV. This and the following I met with at the farmhouse at Carr-voran, at or near which they were found a few years since. This, I make no doubt, is sepulchral. At first, indeed, from the centurial mark at the beginning, one might be apt to take it for an inscription of the centurial kind. But where there are spaces between two diverging lines, or ridges on the borders of inscribed stones, they are always on the middle of the borders; from whence it appears that what is now first cannot have been the original beginning of the inscription; and that about two lines may well be supposed to have been broken off from the upper part of it, which probably have contained the name of the deceased, and his rank in the army. What remains shows his belonging to the century of one, the three first letters of whose name were *MAR*, as *Marius* or *Marcus*, etc. What was next in the first remaining line is broken off; and so is something from the two succeeding ones. This leaves us not a little in the dark; and yet, I think, we have reason to conclude, and with some degree of probability too, that the cohort to which the deceased belonged was the "Cohors quarta Brittorum Antoninia." Mr. Horsley, in his collection of sculptures and inscriptions, has given us a part of the body of an altar erected by one of this cohort.† He is not, indeed, certain at what particular place it was found; but he is inclined to believe that it was somewhere hereabouts, which occa-

\* P. cccxiv. S.

† Northumberland, lxxvi.

sioned his placing it in the order he has.\* It was of Mr. Warburton's collection, and taken to the library at Durham. The inscription under consideration suits well with this reading, and better, I think, than with any other. For, if we suppose any other cohort intended, it must have been entirely included in what is wanting of the first remaining line; the consequence of which will be that the letters in the second remaining line are the first of the proper name of the person, who took care to have the monument erected; and on this supposition we shall have *Viator* in the third, as signifying this office. For the viator is well known to have been a kind of beadle that attended several of the civil magistrates.† It occurs in many inscriptions in Gruter, as denoting this officer; but not above two or three of them are found out of Italy. On this account I would rather read *Viator* as a proper name, of which we have several instances in the same author. Nor is it altogether needless to observe that, if we take it in this sense, we may easily suppose the rest of the line to have been filled up with some letters relating to his own, or his father's name, with *F* for *Filius*, or some such thing; whereas, were we to take *Viator* for the officer, we should be quite at a loss to guess what made up the rest of the line. These considerations have had so much weight with me, that I have ventured to put under the inscription the reading, to which, indeed, the lost spaces in each of the remaining lines are not unsuitable. The last line is very obscure and confused. As to the first faint appearance of a letter in it, I do not know whether to consider it as one, or as an accidental scratch upon the stone. However, the whole might have been, *H. S. F. C.*, for *Hoc sepulchrum faciendum curavit*, as is common enough in other inscriptions. The "Cohors quarta Brittonum Antoninia" was, perhaps, stationed at Magna before the writing of the *Notitia*.

*Deæ Hammia Sabinius* Votum solvit libens merito. [Huebner, p. 135.]

V. This is a portable altar, the capital and base of which I did not take, as I saw nothing remarkable in them. The inscription is curious and well worth observing, if it be only for the sake of the word *Hammia*, which is not to be met with in any other. I at first thought it to have been the name of some local deity; but that the Syrian Goddess, or Mother of the Gods, is intended by it, I do not at all question. For it seems plainly to be of Hebrew or Syriac derivation, from *Eem*, or *Aimma*, *Mater*.‡ And Hesychius gives us the same signification of both Ἀῖμια and Ἀιμάς. The *H*, or aspiration, indeed, has been superadded. Mr. Horsley has an

\* Page 233.

† See Rohini, "Antiquit. Roman. cum notis Dempsteri," p. 540 et 542, and Kennet's "Roman Antiquities," p. 116-120.

‡ See Selden *de diis Syris, syntagm.* II. Cap. 2, ubi de voce Ἀιμάς. Hesychii.

inscription to the same goddess under the name of Dea Suria, which he is inclined to believe formerly belonged to Little Chesters.\* It is also mentioned in Camden.† Cybele, Rhea, Ceres, Tellus, Dea Syria, Dea Mater, are all well known to have been names belonging to the same deity. The person by whom this altar was dedicated appears to have been one Sabinus, or Sabincius; but I prefer the latter name, which, though not so common as the other, we have in Gruter;‡ for in the next line to *SABT* there seems to have been a letter before the *E*; and there is room enough after it for three letters more. This conjecture, perhaps, may not be a little confirmed by observing that the solitary *E* could never have belonged to the word *Fecit*, because we never meet this word upon altars without *Ex voto*, *Ex Imperio*, or some such thing preceding it; and it is impossible that this should have been the case here. Very probably there was originally added in another line, though now obliterated, the letters *V.S.L.M.*, or some others, that are commonly met with in inscriptions of the like kind. I take this altar to have been inscribed in the time of the decline of the Roman power in Britain; for the letters are rudely cut, the stone is of a very coarse grit, and *DEE* is used instead of *Deæ*; all which are marks of the low empire.

To the above observations it may not be amiss to subjoin the two following articles, though not of much importance.

At a well near Walton, not far from Carrvoran, I saw the under part of a broken altar. Mr. Horsley has mentioned it;§ but it seems to have been unobserved by him, as having still remaining upon it very distinctly the letters *V.S.L.M.* for *Votum solvit libens merito*.

At the House Steeds, near the chief row of sculptures and inscriptions, there lies a thin flat stone of an oblong figure. Thinking it might have something upon it, I raised it up and examined it; and found upon one of its longest edges the letters *MARII* plainly cut, besides the obscure appearances of several others. I am apt to think it of the centurial kind, and that it has been a part of the wall of the station. It seems not to have been taken notice of before.

#### BURGH ON SANDS.

[1745, *p.* 367.]

An inscription found on a small portable altar at Burgh on the Sands, in Cumberland, in the house of one John Hodgson.—A reading of it is desired.

\* Hesych., *Lexic.*

† Northumberland, liii., p. 226.

‡ Page 1070.

§ P. DLIX. 4.



## CARLISLE.

[1804, *Part I.*, p. 269.]

SEWELL'S LANE, SCOTCH STREET.—These antiquities are so valuable, both from their rarity and from the elegance of the workmanship, that they must be extremely precious in the eyes of the antiquary. The name that the vase is generally distinguished by is *præfericulum*, and it is understood to have been appropriated to holding the incense, etc., used in the sacrifice. Many of these have been brought from Greece and Sicily, and have been highly estimated by the curious, for the elegance of the workmanship, and the beauty of the relief in the ornaments. But the Grecian vessels are principally of fine clay, or bronze. These vases we are speaking of, we believe, are the first which have been discovered in Britain; and the sculpture of such a vessel but once appears among all the altars found in this country; it is on a beautiful Roman altar, discovered at Ellenborough, which was removed to Flat Hall, at Whitehaven, and is now in the possession of Lord Viscount Lowther. This altar is inscribed "Genio loci, Fortunæ reduci, Romæ Æternæ, et Fato bono," etc. [Huebner, p. 86.] It is said to be the most curious Roman altar that ever was discovered in Britain, and is particularly described both by Camden and Horsley, who go into a long train of conjectures respecting the instruments sculptured on its sides, which are the *præfericulum*, the *patera*, the axe and the knife. The metal which the vases in question are formed of seems to be a composition of refined brass, capable of receiving a very high polish, and so flexible that it allowed the artificer to form them excessively thin. At the top and bottom of the vases it is evident that they have been turned and finished in a lathe. From there being no accompanying altar or inscription we regret we cannot suppose exactly the time of the Empire when these sacred vessels have been used. The only guide is the elegant sculpture of the handles, which consists of four tiers of groups of figures, in excellent workmanship, and all apparently illustrative of sacrifice. The uppermost seems to be two persons holding, or preparing, a cow or bullock for sacrifice; the next, a person taking hold of a hog for the same purpose; the third, a priest clothed in his robes, standing at an altar, holding something on it; the lower one, which is the most beautiful, is, on the one side, a man clothed in complete armour, holding a knife, as if going to sacrifice a sheep or a lamb, which another person below holds for that purpose; on the other side the priest stands, with another knife or sword, attending the ceremony. These vases are, from their extreme rarity, and from other causes, unquestionably of much greater value than we were first induced to set upon them. This piece of antiquity has been preserved, because it fell into the hands of a judicious mechanic; but we have heard it asserted as a

fact, that some remain of antiquity, found in this neighbourhood, was a few years ago carried to a founder, who consigned it to the furnace, because no one present understood that such a thing was of the smallest value.—*Carlisle Journal*.

[1807, *Part II.*, p. 1105.]

One of my sons, digging in my garden at Carlisle, found the accompanying Roman altar (Fig. 3), which I beg the favour of your ingenious correspondents to elucidate.

Yours, etc.,      ALTER SENEX.

[1824, *Part II.*, p. 548.]

A very ancient horse-shoe was recently found, embedded in solid clay, 4 feet deep, in Mr. Cowen's brick-field, on the banks of the Eden, near Carlisle, little beyond where the Roman wall crossed that river. It is of an extraordinary size, weighing no less than twenty-eight ounces. There were originally thirteen nails in it (extending all round the front), eight of which still remain in an almost perfect state. It is much wider than the modern shoe; and the hollow is filled up by a thick plate of iron, as if destined to defend the foot of the horse from the spikes used in ancient warfare, and continued down to the Border contests, in order to check the operations of cavalry. The situation in which it was found, buried so deeply in pure clay, implies an antiquity much greater than the period of the moss-troopers, or the wars of the Bruces and the Edwards.

[1829, *Part II.*, p. 357.]

As the cutting down of Gallow Hill, near Carlisle, proceeds, many interesting remains of former ages are brought to light; but especially memorials of the dominion of the Romans, whose chief northern stations, as is well known, were in this district. A discovery was made lately of a well-executed and neatly designed Roman tomb, in fine preservation, 5 feet 4 inches long, and 2 feet 9½ inches wide. It contained a female figure, in alto relievo, 3 feet in length, holding in her left hand a rudely sculptured flower; in her right a scarf, or some emblematical ornament, which is thrown over the shoulder. Underneath is the inscription: "D. M. Avr. avrelia vixit annos xxxxi: ml. [tel] Pivs Apolinaris conivgi carissime posuit." [Huebner, p. 162.] Probably:—Diis Manibus Aureliæ. Aurelia vixit annos 41: Memoriae loco Pius Apolinaris conjugii carissimæ posuit." Near the stone was also discovered a roughly executed capital of a Corinthian column, 24 inches by 10, in red free-stone; also six Roman urns, of various dimensions (one of them full of ashes), a lachrymatory, and three jet rings, the largest three inches in diameter, and in an extraordinary perfect state.

## OLD CARLISLE.

[1755, pp. 360-361.]

As you have often obliged the public with accounts of British and Roman antiquities which have been discovered in various parts of this island, I send you the best drawing I could make of two Roman altars and a trough, which were very lately found by some workmen as they were digging for the foundation of a ring wall against the common at Old Carlisle, about 200 yards east of a Roman legionary garrison. The aggers, prætorium, ditches, and roads belonging to this station are still to be traced by their remains on this uncultivated common, and the *Alæ Auxiliariæ* appeared by many scattered ruins to have encamped eastward a long way.

The date of this stone is ascertained, as it is said to be consecrated by one *Ælius Septimianus Rusticus*, a præfect in the consulship of *Maternus* and *Bradua*.

The other stone, Fig. 2, is also incomplete, but this seems to have been mutilated at the side by the Romans themselves, for there are marks of their pick all over it. It is dedicated to the health of *Septimus Severus*, the great triumpher over Britain, and builder of the stone wall, the ruins of which 1500 years have not mouldered away.

Fig. 3 is a trough, to the use of which I confess myself wholly a stranger, and should be glad to see the conjectures of some of your ingenious correspondents on the subject.

The altars, Figs. 1 and 2, are about 2 feet high, and 15 inches thick; there is no fireplace on the top of them, nor any sacrificial vessels on the sides, yet the workmanship is not contemptible. The trough is 22 inches long, 14 wide, and 6 deep; the rim is about 4½ inches; the letters are about 3 inches, very legible, none of them being defaced.

The inscriptions I read thus:

Fig. 1. *Cui præest Ælius Septimianus Rusticus præfectus Materno et Bradua Consulibus.*

Fig. 2. *Jovi Optimo maximo pro Salute Imperatoris Septimi Severi Marcus Aurelius Antoninus.*

If the other fragments are found, they shall be communicated by  
Yours, etc. G. S.

P.S.—There is a high Roman road, which has never yet been taken notice of, leading in a straight line from Plumpton fort to Ellenborough; the stations upon it are four, Plumpton fort, Gast Steeds on Broadfield, Old Carlisle near Wigton, and Ellenborough; their names I conjecture to have been *Voreda*, *Brementuracum*, *Olenacum* and *Virosidum*. There is also a straight Roman road from *Virofidum* by *Abbey-holm* to Carlisle.



[1757, p. 220.]

Enclosed I have sent you an exact draught of the two imperfect altars which were dug up near Carlisle in 1755. As the workmanship, notwithstanding their present mutilated condition, is far from being contemptible: and as the prints you gave us of them in your Magazine for August, 1755, were not such just copies of the originals, nor the inscriptions so correct as I could have wished to have seen them, these, I thought, might not be unacceptable to the curious.

Fig. 1. This inscription is sadly defaced, and there is something uncommon in the shape of the letters, especially the *A*'s and *M*'s. But, were it not differing from better judgment, I should be for reading it thus :

(Jovi) Optimo maximo  
Pro Salute L. Septimii  
Severi et (or item) Mar. Aur. Antonini.

The other (Fig. 2) as far as perfect, is legible enough; and the reading in your Magazine I take to be the true one; though the imperfect letter in the second line, which ought to be *S*, to make the word Septiminus, seems rather to be the tail of a *J*.—Yours,  
T. T.

[1756, p. 431.]

The inclosed (see the plate) is an exact copy of the inscription on a votive altar, and a draught of the stone, which was lately dug up near Old Carlisle, as it is called by the neighbouring inhabitants.

This stone was found a few yards distant from the place where the two fragments of the altars were dug up, whose inscriptions were copied by the late Mr. Smith, in your Magazine.—[*Ante*, p. 29.]

[1842, *Part II.*, pp. 598-599.]

You will, I am sure, be glad to hear that a Roman altar has been lately found at Olenacum, or Old Carlisle, concerning which I am enabled to send you an interesting letter, and correct drawings, forwarded to me by the Rev. Richard Matthews, of Wigton Hall, proprietor of this celebrated station, and a magistrate of the county of Cumberland. The only observation I would make is, that, on another consideration, he may find the puzzling lines on the first and second line were intended for *FVLG.*; for altars to “Juppiter Optimus Maximus Fulgerator” are far from uncommon, and even under the names of “Fulminator, Fulgurator, Tonans.” On his emendations on the altars printed by Camden, and in Horsley, and noticed under Olenacum, numbers 6 and 12, in my last volume on Northumberland, I am very much indebted for his critical care and observations; and respecting his inquiry about a second edition on the Roman Antiquities I have published in that volume, I am happy to mention to himself and other antiquarian scholars, that a very few copies of the whole of it may be obtained under the title of “The Roman Wall and South Tindale.” Yours, etc. JOHN HODGSON.

I send you a drawing of an altar, which was found a few weeks ago in the bed of a small stream, which runs into the Wiza, a little to the south of the Roman Station at Old Carlisle. The letters upon it are very perfect, with the exception of those in the last line, which are injured to the extent shown in the drawing. I am unable to explain the abbreviation VLK; but the numeral VII expresses, I think, the number of times that Gordian was saluted Augustus, or Imperator, which terms, after the reign of Octavius, became synonymous. I read the inscription thus: [Huebner, p. 82]

I · O · M · et VLK.  
Pro salute Domini Nostri Marci Antonini Gordiani  
Pii Felicis, Augusti septimum,  
magnam Aram  
Cohors prima Augusta dedit.

If I read the last line correctly, this is the only inscription recorded to have been found at Old Carlisle which makes mention of a *Cohort*, and which in so doing distinctly informs us what before was merely matter of conjecture.—that the Ala Augusta was a military body composed of horse and foot. And this, it appears to me, is the only *new* historical information that can be gathered from it.

After an attentive examination of the original, I am of opinion that No. 6, in your list of inscriptions found at Old Carlisle, cannot be read otherwise than thus:—

I · O · M  
Pro salute domini nostri Marci Antonini pii felicis Agusti—(Rufus Colegeius cui Præfectus *est*)—Ala Augusta—Quartum Imperatore Antonino *et* Balbino secundum Consulibus.

The peculiarities of this inscription are—*Cui Præfectus est*, instead of *Cui Præest*, and Quartum *before* the name of the Consul, instead of *after* it; but it agrees fully with all similar inscriptions found at Old Carlisle, in being dedicated by the *Ala*, and not its *Præfect*.

Allow me to offer for your consideration a conjectural reading, somewhat different to yours, of No. 12, in your Old Carlisle list: [Huebner, p. 80]

Deæ Æternæ Romæ  
Templum  
L. Vaterius Marcellus  
Restituit.

*Romæ Æternæ* occurs in two inscriptions found at Ellenborough; and this reading agrees tolerably with the remaining letters, and the probable dimensions of the stone when perfect.

If correct drawings of this, and the preceding inscription, would be of any use to you, I will endeavour to have them made, and send them to you.

If my recollection does not deceive me, a wish was expressed in the *Gentleman's Magazine* that you would publish that portion of your

"History of Northumberland" which relates to Roman Antiquities in a separate form. Unfeignedly concurring in this wish, [See Note 5]

I remain, dear sir, yours truly, RICHARD MATTHEWS.

CONING-GARTH.

[1748, pp. 179-180.]

I send you some pieces of antiquity, which I lately discovered in the wall and adjoining houses of an obscure farm at Coning-garth, and about two short miles southward from Wigton, in Cumberland, and not far from a large Roman encampment, called Old Carlisle, on the military way leading to Edinburgh.

Fig. 1 is a Triton; the stone is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet by 16 inches; whether there has been any figure on the other sides cannot be learned, as 'tis built in the wall. It is in full demi-relievo, and tolerably well executed, at least much better than many sculptures of those times, but 'tis imperfect. Below the tail has been another figure, but the stone is broke off; and, facing the Triton, a third also defaced and imperfect.

Fig. 2 is the corner-stone of a stable or barn, at the very foundation, probably a pedestal to a funeral monument. The figures on it resemble scales, or waves, and whether it has been a plinth for the Triton, and the whole a sepulchral pillar, is not now to be determined.

Fig. 3 is an inscription, now placed horizontally, as the upper lintel of a window near the Triton, by which it seems probable that the *Ala Augusta* had some time garrisoned this place; it is of the funeral kind, and dedicated to the *Diis Manibus*. I hope the curious will oblige us with their reading and interpretation of it.

Fig. 4 is in the end wall of the stable, of which Fig. 2 is the corner-stone; the border is raised, and the plain hollowed, in which this figure is sculptured as high as the border.

Fig. 5 is a view of a stone, which I take to be the capital of the whole monument. The length of the plinth is  $17\frac{1}{2}$  inches, breadth 12, height 7 inches, of which 2 are edged away in a slope moulding, and the spheroid on the plinth is 20 inches high, 14 in diameter one way, and 12 the other, exactly equal to the breadth of the base, and wrought over with a kind of network, probably taken from the cone of the fir-apple. Its most singular curiosity is, that plinth and spheroid make but one entire stone, contrary to the custom of the moderns spiking their globes. I am persuaded if the whole funeral obelisk had been entire, it would have been one of the most curious of the kind yet discovered. At present it lies in a back yard, useless and disregarded.

Yours, etc. G. S.

CLIFTON.

[1847, Part I., pp. 593-594.]

In making the excavation of the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway at Clifton, the Roman altar here represented was discovered. It is now



the property of G. Mould, Esq., of Coldale Hall, near Carlisle; who for the inspection of the curious has kindly deposited it in the yard of Mr. Thomas Raper, stonecutter, in Botchergate, previous to its being placed in the private grounds adjoining his residence. The annexed engraving is copied from the *Carlisle Patriot*. The two figures of a vase and *præfericulum* are on the sides of the altar; the back of it is plain and in a rough state. The inscription may be read thus: [Huebner, p. 74; see Note 6]

JOVI OPTIMO MAXIMO  
GENIO LOCI  
BRITANNICO  
SOLVENS VOTUM AP-  
OLLINA-  
RIS PRIN-  
CIPIS CURAVIT FACIENDUM.

[This is followed by specimens of some parallel inscriptions recorded elsewhere.]

## LANNERCOST.

[1744, p. 369.]

The following Roman inscription, being the head-stone of the upper passage betwixt the pillars and out-wall of the old abbey of Lannercost, has escaped the observation of all antiquaries by its obscure situation. It was discovered by two masons at work there, who informing me of it, I went this day to examine it, and by help of a ladder noted down these characters: [Huebner, p. 144]

JOVI OPTIMO MAXIMO COHORTS PRIMA AETLÆ DACORUM CUI PRÆEST JULIUS SATURNINUS TRIBUNUS.

The rest has been obliterated by the workmen at building the abbey. To understand it we are to consider, that besides the legionary troops employed in the Roman service, there were ten auxiliary cohorts, which made a legion, of foreign troops, and assumed the name of the conquered province to which they belonged, and sometimes added another title in honour of some of their emperors, under whom they were probably enlisted. This cohort was then called *Ælia Dacica*; *Ælia*, in honour of Adrian, who was styled Titus *Ælius Hadrianus*, and *Dacica*, from their country. *Dacia* comprehended all that tract of ground north of the Danube to the Carpathian mountains, betwixt the rivers *Tibiscus* and *Pruth*, comprehending now good part of Hungary, all Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia. We have many other stones which mention this cohort, particularly at *Burd-oswald*, the Roman *Amboglana*; here the *Notitia*, which was written under Theod. junior, places this legion, which seems to have succeeded the *Legio Sextavictrix*, and very likely garrisoned this place to the final departure of the Romans from Britain. The name of the tribune is different from that on any other of the stones ascribed to this cohort.—Yours, etc. G. SMITH.

## NETHERBY.

[1740, p. 171.]

I had the pleasure of yours in relation to the altar I sent you, which was so much more necessary, as having procured Baron Clark's own remarks on the reading since I wrote to you, it may now be published, with the conjectures of two of the best antiquaries of the age (the Baron and Mr. Ward). I have drawn them up as below.

This remarkable altar to Fortune was lately discovered in the outer room of a bath at Netherby, it being, as Baron Clark conjectures, a peculiar ceremony in the worship of that goddess, to purify the priest and people with water. That judicious antiquary grounds his opinion on a Yorkshire altar, dedicated to the same power; for which I refer you to Horsley's "Brit. Romana," page 304.

The letters are very fair, but attended with considerable difficulty in the reading, by means of the peculiar signature at bottom, which the Baron says was the ancient manner of writing M; and indeed it appears to be so from Ol. Wormius's "Runic Characters." See also Hicks's "Antiq. Literat. Septentr." He therefore assigns three various readings to it as below: [Huebner, p. 166]

DEÆ\* SANCTÆ FORTUNÆ CONSERVATRICI, MARCUS AURELIUS† FALVIUS  
[SALVIUS] TRIBUNUS‡ COHORTIS PRIMÆ ÆLIÆ HISPANORUM  
    { 1. MILLE EQUITUM  
      2. MILLIARIA EQUITATA [MILIARIAE EQUITATAE] }  
    3. CUM MILLE EQUITIBUS  
       VOTUM SOLVIT LUBENS [LIBENS] MERITO.

Of these he prefers the two first, and chiefly the second.

Mr. Ward thinks it should be read "militum equestrium."

G. S.

[1742, p. 76.]

I have nothing to add, in relation to this altar, being agreeably prevented by so judicious an antiquary as Mr. Ward; what I have to say, shall be confined to the local observations made a third time at Cast-steeds, in order to satisfy his inquiry.

The dimensions of the hypocaustum are 5 yards by 9 within the walls; the ground floor was of clay, in which the stone pedestals were fixed, about 4 or 5 inches deep more or less, so as to bring them to a perfect level at top; their height, including the depth in the clay, is generally about 2 feet; supported by these pedestals was a second floor of white stone about 1 inch thick, and curiously cemented for the bath. The parallelopipedons of burnt clay were placed quincunx form, betwixt every other row of these pedestals, and were 5 or 6

\* The epithet *sanctæ* seems applied to this goddess on no other of her altars yet found in Britain.

† *Falvius* I read *Alvius*, there being no *F* in the original. [Huebner says *Salvius*.]

‡ This cohort was never known to have garrisoned Netherby before this altar was discovered.

inches short of their height, in order to give passage for the smoke to warm the bath; a perspective draught of what remained being sent you before, I shall here give you an ichnographical plan of a few of them in order to the better understanding the whole.

Here the squares represent the ichnography of the pedestals, and the n's that of the clay parallelipedons which were omitted in every other row, as A B. There were above 100 pedestals in all; two pedestals and the vacuity took up about 28 inches as near as can be judged from the present state of their situation on the floor.

Mrs. Appleby, who deserves to be gratefully remembered by all lovers of antiquity, took great pains to preserve what she could of those valuable remains of the ancients; she found there the ruins of the bottom and sides of an iron grate, which that lady still has at Cast-steeds; and some pieces of charcoal were lying up and down on the floor.

Adjoining to the south wall, where the grate stood, were two curious rooms, supported in the same manner with pedestals, and conduits betwixt them, still running fresh when that lady found them; but on admission of the air, all have gone to ruin. The floors of these rooms that rested on the pedestals were paved in the same manner as the bath, with this addition, that a curious cemented composition of lime, brickdust, and pebbles, at least 4 inches thick, was spread over the stone of a wonderful hardness. Such care have that warlike people taken to render a climate of these northern regions agreeable to their constitutions.

There were many other curious floors found amongst the ruins, and some coal ashes; but I am apt to believe, that the old castle of the De Vallibus, proprietors of Gillsland after the Conquest, has been built on the ruins of this fort, because several curiosities that intimate a more modern date have been found here. It stands, as most other Roman forts have done, on a lingula, as near as the defence of the wall would admit, betwixt the rivulets of Irthing and Cammock.

There was also a cold bath found near the place, and not far from it something like a cistern, about 5 yards by  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , composed of thick slate stones, very large and set edgeways, curiously cemented so as to refuse passage to any liquid, on supposition that it might be intended for such a design.

The glass bowl is very curious, but the fragments not being at the edge anywhere, 'tis impossible to judge of its capacity. One of the pieces is about 1 inch 8 tenths lengthways, and 1 tenth cross, or to speak mathematically, the chord is about 1 inch 8 tenths long, and the sagitta or versed sine, 1 tenth, wherefore the diameter ought to be 8 inches 1 tenth at that place, but these are extremely difficult in such small arches to be accurately determined. No doubt but the fable of Actæon was the history of the bowl, and 'tis great pity it had not been entire.

G. SMITH.



## NUNNERY.

[1755, *p.* 392.]

I was lately very obligingly suffered to copy the following Roman inscription in the gardens of — Aglionby, Esa., at Nunnery, near Kirk Oswald in Cumberland (and which I esteemed as highly as the most beautiful flower in them), but from whence the stone was brought, and how long it has stood there, I could not be informed, though, from the view and position of it, its erection seems not to have been of any late date.

The letters are legible enough (except for some moss which I durst not take the liberty to remove) and well preserved. The little holes, like points, which appear upon the stone among the letters, break the order of the words, but the sense and construction, I think, is plain enough, as likewise, that the words ought to be thus divided: *Deo Maſono et Numinibus, Auguſti, Durio et Ramio, et Irupo, et Lurio Germani votum ſolverunt lubentes merito.* [Huebner, *p.* 80.]

This inscription, sir, I believe is not to be found in Gruter, Camden, or Horsley, or published before, and may, on this account, not only be the more acceptable to the curious in these studies, but also afford them an opportunity of making some useful observations upon it, which province I would humbly assign to Mr. Gemsege in particular, if he thinks fit so far to oblige his humble servant,

LASENBYENSIS.

## PENRITH.

[1785, *Part I.*, *p.* 347.]

I send you the drawing of a fibula of uncommon magnitude and weight, found in April last, at Huskew Pike, an eminence distant from Penrith in Cumberland about three miles on the Keswick road. (See the Plate, fig. 8.) In searching for stones, several urns and other remains of human sepulture have been found at this place; but history is silent touching the people here interred, or whether the occasion was public: the adjacent country was the scene of many deadly conflicts in early ages. The fibula is of silver, and coarse workmanship; the diameter of the circle is seven inches and a half; the studs or buttons are hollow, and fitted on without solder; it has never been burnished, as appears by the hammer-marks remaining: the length of the tongue, or spear, is twenty inches and three-quarters; and the whole weight is twenty-five ounces. I hope some of your correspondents will discover its proper use, as it seems to be too heavy an ornament for a man's apparel.

Yours, W. H.

PLIMPTON WALL.

[1790, *Part II.*, *p.* 982.]

Being at Keswick in the course of last autumn, I went to inspect the natural and artificial curiosities which have been collected by

Crossthwaite and Hutton (guides to the Lakes), and which form their separate museums. At the house of the latter I observed a Roman altar, which, he informed me, he had recently purchased. It is about a year since it was observed in Cumberland, at Plimpton Wall, upon the remains of the Fort Petriana, now called Castle Steeds.

In an abstract which Hutton showed me from West's "Guide to the Lakes," this spot is thus described, p. 149: "The castrum is 168 paces from south to north, by 110 within the fosse, which was also surrounded by a stone wall: the stones have been removed to the fence wall, and the fence side, being in Plimpton, is called Plimpton Wall. The station is a vast heap of ruins of stone buildings, the walls of great thickness, and cemented. The town has surrounded the station, except on the side of Pittal." [The remainder of the extract is omitted.]

[1790, *Part II.*, p. 1092.]

Observing in your magazine for last month an engraving of the Roman altar found at Plimpton Wall, in Cumberland (which altar, in the year 1786, was in the possession of a Mr. Sanderson, though now said to have been recently purchased by one Hutton, a guide to the Lakes), and your correspondent "Peregrinator" requesting an explanation of the inscription, I beg leave, by the same channel, to submit the following to the consideration of your readers: [Huebner, p. 78]

DEO  
MARYI  
BELAIVCAD  
ROEIN **MII**  
NIBAYCC  
IVLIVSAV  
GVSTALIS  
ACIORIVLLV  
PI PRET

Deo  
Marti  
Belatucad  
ro et Numi  
nib(us) Augg(ustorum)  
Julius Au-  
gustalis  
Actor Jul (ii) Lu  
pi Pref(ecti posuit).

To the God  
Mars Belatucader  
and the deities  
of the Emperors (*Marcus  
Aurelius and Lucius  
Verus; or more probably  
Severus and Caracalla  
or Caracalla and Geta*)  
Julius Augustalis,  
Agent of Julius Lupus  
the Prefect hath placed  
or dedicated.

From the foregoing inscription, which, from a gentleman's account of it who has accurately viewed it, is perfectly fair and legible, and the stone between the words *Marti* and *Belatucadro* no way injured or mutilated, so as to admit of a conjecture of there ever having been a fuller reading—it seems to me that the term *Belatucader* must be thereby decidedly applied to mean the same with, and synonymous to, that of Mars, or one and the same deity under two different denominations, about which there has heretofore been great contrariety of opinion among the learned, whether that appellation belonged to

Mars or Apollo. May not the inscription on this altar serve, therefore, to settle such difference of opinion, by adducing it as evidence in confirmation of its conveying those different names of the same deity in stronger and unequivocal terms? All altars dedicated to the god Belatucader, which very probably might be the British or other well-known local names for, and of the same import with, the Roman Mars, have been very rare and uncommon, and are not hitherto known to have been found except in Cumberland and Westmoreland.

FRED. S. SCARISBING.

#### Pykethwaite Fell.

[1804, *Part I.*, p. 305.]

I send you, sir, the outline of a camp on Pykethwaite Fell, near Christenbury Craggs in this county (Fig. 9). It does not appear to our antiquaries whether it should be classed among the Saxon or the Roman ones. Without troubling you with any more remarks, which would but fill, without adorning, the pages of your excellent magazine, I subjoin the drawing (Fig. 9).

A. A. Ruins of a wall, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide.

B. B. Ruins of ditto, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide.

C. Sunken *εννεαγων*, nearly paved round with strongly cemented stones.

D. Sunken circles, paved round in the same manner, supposed to be meant for fires.

It seems as if a large fire was kept in the centre of the camp, others between the two walls, and more occasionally without; probably as beacons at night, or to keep off the wolves. I leave it to some of your ingenious correspondents to comment upon the shape of this singular camp, and to assign to it its proper description, style, title, and addition.

J. HUDSON.

#### Skinburness.

[1866, *Part II.*, pp. 470, 471.]

A portion of an inscribed Roman altar has recently been discovered by Mr. Wilkinson of Kendal. It was lying amongst boulder stones on the sea-shore, to the south of a small haven called Skinburness, on the Cumberland coast. It reads: [Huebner, p. 90]

MATRIBV.  
PARVITI.  
VAC.IM? . . . .  
. . . . .

which Dr. Bruce reads, no doubt correctly, "Matribus Parcis," etc.

[1866, *Part II.*, p. 641.]

I have read with much interest the notes in your October number



bearing particularly on the inscribed Roman altar which I lately picked up on the seashore between Silloth and Skinburness. The finding of this relic confirms, I think, Dr. Bruce's statement referred to at page 347 of his second edition of "The Roman Wall," viz., "A military way ran along the coast from this station (Moresby, near Whitehaven), by way of Maryport, to the extremity of the wall at Bowness."

I also think it very probable the Romans used the creek or harbour of Skinburness. In confirmation of this, the following extract from the second volume of Nicholson and Burn's "History of Westmorland and Cumberland," p. 177, would almost lead to the inference that the town and harbour of Skinburness existed in the time of the Romans :

"In the year 1301, Bishop Hatton being informed that the inhabitants of the village or town near the port in Skinburness were at a great distance from all manner of Divine service, grants a power to the abbot and convent of Holm Cultram to erect a church there which should be endowed with all manner of tithes and enjoy all parochial rights. The abbot and convent to have the advowson, and the Bishop of Carlisle and his successors all ordinary jurisdiction."

The town of Skinburness was at this time not only privileged with a market, but seems also to have been the chief place for the king's magazines in these parts for supplying the armies then employed against the Scots. But the case was most miserably altered very soon after. For in 1305 we find it thus mentioned in the Parliament records :

"At the petition of the abbot, requesting that whereas he had paid a fine of 100 marks to the king for a fair and market to be had in Skinburness, and now that town, together with the way leading to it, is carried away by the sea, the king would grant that he may have such fair and market at his town of Kirkeby Johan instead of the other place aforesaid, and that his charter upon this may be renewed. It is answered, Let the first charter be annulled, and then let him have a like charter in the place as he desireth. . . . And for the same reason, as it seemeth, the church also was removed to Kirkeby Johan or Newton Arlosh."

So much for the interest which the finding of a portion of an inscribed Roman altar near Skinburness has already led to.

I am, etc. CHARLES WILKINSON.

TARRABY.

[1804, *Part I.*, p. 471.]

As some workmen were lately digging over the foundation of the Roman Wall at Tarraby, about two miles north-east of Carlisle, they found an altar 1 foot 6 inches high, and 7 inches broad, with the following inscription upon it: [Huebner, p. 159 ; see Note 7]

MAR· T COCM

LEG· II AVG

SANCTANA

SECVNDINI

DSOL·SVRCV

RA· AELIANIc

I

CVRA·OPPIV

I

FELIX·OPTO

*Translation.*

MARTI COCIDEO MAGNO,  
 LEGIO SECVNDA AVGVSTA  
 SANCTA SVB CVRA AELIANI  
 DVCIS SOLIVS NVMERI SE-  
 CVNDINI OPIIVS FELIX  
 OPTIO, DEDICAT PONEN-  
 DAM CVRA.

*English Translation.*

The second sacred Augustan Legion, under the charge of Ælianus, Commander-in-Chief of the Second Legion, Oppius Felix being his Deputy Lieutenant, dedicates this altar to Mars, the great local Deity; and took care to have it set up.

**Devonshire.****EAST COCKET.**[1753, *p.* 293.]

Was dug up in a field in the parish of East Cocket, Devon, a piece of mosaic work, with very curious figures, representing a woman lying in full proportion, with an hour-glass under her elbow, and a flower-pot in one hand; over her head an hare flying from a greyhound, just catching her in his mouth; at her feet a bloodhound in pursuit of a doe, just before him, with several other figures. This antique piece appears to be a floor of a Roman sudatory, or sweating-house. The cavity below, by its dividing walls, burnt stones, etc., very plainly shows itself to be the fireplace; but one flue remains to convey the warm air to the room above. This floor is composed of burnt bricks, blue, red, and white, none more than an inch square, most less. Within a beautiful square, containing a circle, are these figures: A woman dressed, 'tis thought, in the Roman stola with its purple laticlave, or border; another much damaged, which, with the former, each give a hand to fix the clothes round another woman, laid on a couch naked down to below her waist, and on whom the physician hard by prepares to do some operation by the fire, either cupping or burning, able to suit the use of the room.

## EXETER.

[1836, *Part II.*, p. 311.]

Mr. Shortt has requested us to place upon record the addition to his collection of several Roman vessels and other antiquities, besides those enumerated in our last number, pp. 156, 157. [See Note 8.]

A large scyphus or bowl, adorned with curious tracery and mouldings, and curiously embossed ; the potter's mark is OF. MODESTI.

A handsome cup (calix or cyathus) marked OF. MOD. On another piece of pottery MARCLLE, impressed backwards.

A cup or chalice of Samian ware, inscribed OPA. . . ; an unguent vase of the smallest size, of red clay ; and two glass lacrymatories.

A small sepulchral unguent vase of dark blue clay, found at the post-office inn, and rudely inscribed with the letters NAMEVE.

A mortarium, found at the Western Market.

A bronze fibula, of elegant shape and workmanship, with the letter M on it.

Two beautiful sepulchral lamps, of brown terra cotta, one ornamented with a galley or trireme having a formidable rostrum, and one square sail, and the other with a lioness running. These lamps were found at the depth of 12 feet, with the blade of a sword, several pieces of glass vessels, and the cup and large bowl above mentioned.

A great number of coins, and about twenty more potters' marks, have also been found. The excavations are now nearly closed, and the Markets built over.

Forty silver coins of Trajan, Hadrian, and the Antonines, have been found at Wolfardisworthy near Tiverton.

[1836, *Part II.*, p. 645.]

In lately digging the foundations of the new County Bank, Exeter, opposite the Guildhall, a quantity of ancient red ware was found in a line with the street, at a great depth—the beautiful memorial of the plastic art in Samos (the parent of sculpture), and of the Etruscan works so noted in later times. Some was also dug up in excavating a sewer in front of the Lower Market. Some large flat Roman tiles were also found, inscribed with the arch of a circle, and about fifteen copper coins. There were also some potters' marks found under this bank, one of which, on the bottom of a small chalice or cup, DIOCHV. was probably of some Grecian artist, or of Greek origin—it may be supposed DEIOCHUS, as the I seems a sort of monogram compounded with E, unless meant for the Æolic *digamma* (which the Romans adopted instead of the aspirate), but not very likely to be so. The other IVIII might be the workmanship of the *figuli* or potters attached to the Eighth Legion (1st Cohort) whose ensign was a ram or bull, and served under the Emperor Carausius of naval memory, in our island, about 288 A.D. being entitled *Victrix*



and *Hispanica*, as well as *Classica*, *Pia Fidelis*, and *Gemina Felix*. Another MOD. of the noted Modestus.

The coins were mostly in very bad preservation, all evidently of the Emperor Claudius—with the exception of a smaller one (*PRO-videntia AVG*) of the lower empire—but quite obliterated—excepting some faint remains of the types and legends. A coarse Roman vase of baked clay, entire, was also found.

[1837, *Part II.*, pp. 291-292.]

Within the last six or eight months, Captain Shortt, of Heavitree, whose discoveries we have previously noticed, has been successful in collecting numerous specimens of ancient coins and many curious remains of Samian pottery, found in recent excavations within the capital of the Damnonii.

A Roman family sepulchral vault was found last May, behind the Three Tuns, Fore Street, with its five urns in *columbaria*, or niches round the interior. A great quantity of Roman glass was found at various times; also glass funnels and wine strainers, and a *siphon* or wine taster. Quantities of pieces of black cinerary sepulchral urns were found in the Western Market; as also of pipkins, *dolia*, and other vessels of coarse earth, which, as well as many of the coins, bore testimony to the ravages of fire. A bronze urn, evidently a *præfericulum*, of which the *ansa* or handle was entire, as also its mouth and bottom, the former three-cornered, the latter containing a number of concentric circles: the little god Orus, as a naked child, with his whip in the right hand, appears on the lower part of the *ansa*. Also a large fictile vessel in red clay, being a deep broad platter or patera; its diameter about six inches. In its centre is the potter's mark, OF. NICRI.

Among other specimens of Samian ware may be noticed; the following:

*Orpheus*.—He appears in a short tunic, and bears a long robe or *palla*, shaped like the palm leaf, which was sacred to Apollo, the patron of music.

*Dancing Fauns*.—These sylvan men seem to be celebrating or assisting at the lesser *Dionysia*, or feasts of Bacchus, in the fields, called TA KAT' AIPOYΣ, or in the country. They are perfectly naked—one has a torch, and seems, *uno sublevato pede*, to step with his left foot on a *fir* tree, which, as well as the vine and ivy, was sacred to Bacchus. A hare *forming* on her seat is in the next compartment.

*Hunting Scenes*.—The presence of Diana with her bow the *venatrix Dea*, the Luna or Isis of the ancients, and Hecate of their infernal regions, indicates a variety of subjects relating to the chase, like those also on the tomb of Aricius Scaurus at Pompeii, in the

street of tombs, and which adorn the steps supporting the *cippus* of Scaurus.

A cupid feeding a bird, and the griffin, sacred to Apollo, are among other designs, with a priestly figure of Egyptian character, which seems to bear a *lituus*, or crooked augural staff.

A large piece of a terra-cotta vessel found in Bedford Circus with devices and ornaments representing gladiators, and also wild bulls, such as were hunted at the amphitheatres. (*Plin.*) The potter's mark, SENNIVS. These gladiators have a conical helmet, square shield, short apron or *subligaculum*, and the short sword or *sica*. They are *Samnites*. On a fragment found in May, 1836, the *Samnites* and *Mirmillo* are represented fighting, as the gladiators on the tomb of Scaurus at Pompeii.

*Mercury*.—The fragment of some ancient vessel, also of Samian ware or red clay (*scyphus*), on which is the figure of Hermes or Mercury as a beardless youth, naked—his *petasus* or winged cap on his head—no *talaria* on the feet; right hand holds a loose garment or cloth over the *pudenda*, left a purse, as tutelary god of merchants. A bird appears in front of him, probably a stork, sacrificed to him in Egypt, or an ibis. Also the trident of Neptune, as the Mercury of the Gauls, denoting the fecundity of the waters. On the other fragments appear an eagle, and divers birds of the duck or spoon-bill tribe; also the tail of a dolphin, and small Romanesques. The letters VANI F are legible as the name of the artisan.

A small bronze figure of Julius Cæsar, about three inches in height, was found in removing some old walls in Westgate Quarter in December. It was evidently modelled from some ancient statue of note. The countenance bears a young resemblance to the *Divus Julius*, and the laurel encircles its bald head: it is covered with the *paludamentum*, or imperial robe, and wears the military vest or tunic, and a sort of *caligæ* on the feet; the right arm, curved upwards, has the globe or orb, the emblem of power, and the other gracefully holds what I should call the *perizonium* or martial bâton, thrown back over the left shoulder. Mr. Carter possesses this little *Icon* of the perpetual Dictator.

An ivory hilt of a dagger, which speaks perhaps of the æra of the Plantagenets or the house of Gaunt, was also dug up in Waterbeer Street. It is of square form, and has two regal effigies carved on it—one with a merlin or hawk on his fist and a coronet, the other with a sword. The blade was almost entirely eaten away with rust. About 10 feet from it, on a level with the flooring of the Chair Inn, was a skeleton in a very forward state of decomposition, the bones friable and decayed; and many other human remains were found near the spot.

Coins and medals have been found of Nero, Hadrian, Trajan, Titus, Maximian, Herennia, Victoria, etc., and a medal of Trajan is

described by Captain Shortt as "the most perfect and the handsomest type of antiquity found as yet in Exeter; as fresh as if only now from the mint, with the 'bloom' of the *die* yet on it. IMP. CAES. NERVAE. TRAIANO. AVG(*usto*) GER(*manico*) DAC(*ico*) P. MTR. P. COS. V. P. P. (*Patri Patriæ*). Laureated bust to the right. The reverse presents Trajan, javelin in hand, in a military costume and on a fiery courser, striding over a vanquished foe, probably a Pannonian; for his victory over which people, and sending a crown to Nerva, he was by him adopted in the temple of Jupiter Capitolinus. Rev. S. P. Q. R. Optimo principi."

[1843, *Part I.*, p. 191.]

A Roman pavement has been uncovered at the depth of 4 feet in excavating the ground near Exeter Cathedral, directly in front of the eastern portion near Speke's Chapel. On examination it appears to lie in a direction from north-west to south-east. The portion exposed to view measures about 9 feet in length by 6 in breadth, and is composed of small cubes or quadrangular pieces of red tile, intersected in some parts by others of a species of common black river pebble. Some of these little *tesserae* are larger than others, so as to take deeper hold in the bed of cement which served as a base, and thus formed a sort of binding course to give stability to the whole. This pavement or *lithostratum* is perhaps the fourth known to antiquaries as discovered in Exeter. A coin of the usurper Carausius was found on this spot, of the *Pax* type, with several fragments of Roman tiles, indented with a sort of arrowy pattern, and the lower part of an urn or vase of red clay. Another coin of the second brass of Nerva (*Concordia Exercituum*, two bands joined) and a Trajan of the large brass defaced, were dug up in the adjoining ground. The pavement may have been that of some Roman dwelling near the *Forum Quæstorium* of ancient Isca, perhaps at the extremity of the *Via Principalis* of the camp, where the auxiliary officers of the legion quartered.

#### MODBURY.

[1846, *Part II.*, pp. 517, 518.]

THE STATION ARMINA.—A lost Roman station is supposed to have been found on the Erme River, near Modbury, Devon. At Holdyport Farm, the property of Lord Cranstoun, one mile and a half from Arminion, and on a tongue of land near the embouchure of the Erme at Muttycombe, extensive foundations of walls of powerful rubble masonry have lately been discovered by Mr. Pearce, the intelligent tenant of the estate. These ruins appear to extend over fifteen acres of land, one portion of which is in orchard, the other plantation, and to inclose a space which is covered or washed by



the waters of the Erme on three sides. The bases of two towers and the site of a gateway are traceable. A curiously shaped trowel, somewhat resembling a massy spear-head, is the only article found. It is possible that this fort occupied the site of the lost station of the anonymous geographer Ravennas of the seventh century, *Armina*, incorrectly transcribed from his MS. *Ardua*; the Lombard  $\mathfrak{M}$  (M) being mistaken for *D*, and *IN* for *U*; or it may have been the marine post or fortress, if the station was really at Arminton or Ermington, higher up the river, which disembogues into Bigbury Bay and the English Channel.

*Ar min Aii* British would be, *on the borders of the water*. The Saxons made it *Auld* or rather *Eald*, the old post, as they did Muttycombe, the combe or vale at the muð, mouth, of the river. The alien priory of Modbury, Modbyri (Lel.), founded by the Champernownes about 1275, stood on the north side of the church of that place—dissolved in the reign of Henry VI.

W. T. P. S.

#### PLIM BRIDGE.

[1829, *Part II.*, p. 8.]

A continuation of the great Roman fosse-way extends from Totnes to the Land's End. From Ridgeway, in the parish of Plympton St. Mary, which doubtless owes its name to its situation, it pursues its course through the Earl of Morley's estate, and crosses the Plym at Plym Bridge; there ascending a steep hill, it passes over Egg-Buckland Down, whence Borlase traced it to within a short distance of Saltash Ferry.

About a dozen yards from the Plympton St. Mary end of Plym Bridge is a ruined wall, between 8 and 9 feet long, and 6 or 7 high. In this wall are three niches, 12 inches in height, and 6 wide; the centre one has a circular groin round the top; probably the remains of an oratory or chapel, not an unusual accompaniment to a bridge.

On the opposite side of the river, about a hundred yards from the bridge, and on the left hand side of the road, at the foot of the hill which the fosse ascends, is a fissure in the hedge, overgrown with ivy and moss, which to a casual passer has nothing remarkable in its appearance; but on examination is found to open into a small antique building, with a stone vaulted roof. It is impossible to ascertain the exact dimensions, without removing the rubbish and soil that completely fill and surround it: consequently I cannot determine its use.

The circumstance of these ruins being on the Roman road, makes it not impossible that they are the remains of a votive temple.

In the neighbouring wood, between Boringdon Park and Caun down, are the remains of a camp.

Yours, etc. JOS. CHATTAWAY.

## SIDMOUTH.

[1843, *Part I.*, p. 505.]

The subject of our plate is a small centaur of bronze which was found, in 1841, by some fishermen, on the beach under the cliffs near Sidmouth, on the Salcombe side of the little river Sid, and is now in the possession of Mr. Heineken, of Sidmouth. It is evidently Roman, and has been supposed to have formed one of the decorations of a standard or ensign. The group is 9 inches in height, and hollow, showing it to have been cast. It represents the centaur Chiron, with his pupil Achilles behind his back, taking his lesson in archery and hunting, a subject which has appeared on ancient monuments, and even in later days exercised the pencil of the great Rubens. The left foreleg of the centaur is broken off, and the right hindleg is mutilated; the left arm, which has been bent aside from its original position, is now raised toward his eyes; and the right, which appears to have held a hunting spear, is extended to a dog, which is leaping up in front. The mouth of the centaur is filled up with a pebble from the sea beach, as is the vacuity under his arm. The young Achilles held a bow, the upper part of which still appears; on his left side a sword or *parazonium*; and a *parma* is slung between his shoulders. The under part or pedestal seems to have been a socket, shaft, or shank (*scapus*), whereby the bronze was fixed or screwed into a pole or staff, and was filled with lead.

## Dorsetshire.

## BLANDFORD.

[1758, p. 6co.]

A farmer near Blandford in Dorsetshire ploughing up part of an enclosed field, the ploughshare struck against an earthen vessel or urn, and broke it in two, being quite rotten; it was full of ashes and pieces of human bones, among which was the head of a javelin, or spear, of an uncommon size and fashion, much too heavy to be wielded easily by any common man, weighing thirteen pounds and a half, and twenty-eight inches long, the socket three inches and a quarter in diameter. There was also in the same vessel an helmet of brass, which seemed to have been curiously wrought, but was quite decayed by time, the rust having eaten holes through it. Its diameter was twelve inches and three quarters, and it weighed near eleven pounds.

## DORCHESTER.

[1840, *Part I.*, pp. 473, 474.]

I send you a plan and sections of the amphitheatre at Dorchester. This monument of antiquity, which is in a better state of preservation than any other of the kind in England, is situated in a very

large open arable field, called Fordington Field, about five hundred yards from the town of Dorchester, and close by the Weymouth road, which runs on one of the Roman roads to Ridgway Hill, three miles and a quarter from the town, and is, so far, perfectly straight.

It was first observed as an amphitheatre by Sir Christopher Wren, in going to Portland for stone, while building St. Paul's Cathedral; and was afterwards examined by Dr. Stukeley, who read an account of it to a society of Freemasons, at the Fountain in the Strand, in 1723; in which year he also printed that account, with a geometrical plan of the amphitheatre; and subsequently described it, and gave several views of it, in his "*Itinerarium Curiosum*," Iter vi., pp. 155-168; and Hutchins, who surveyed it for his "*History of Dorset*," gave a description and plate of it in that work.

Before the time of Sir C. Wren it was always called, as the common people call it now, Mambury or Mamebury Ring; Mamebury being derived, in the opinion of some writers, from Malm (or Mame as it is called in the Dorset dialects), a kind of earthy chalk of which it consists, and Bury, taken in its common sense of an earthwork, as in Poundbury (near us), Woodbury, and Cadbury\* . . .

Stukeley in his geometrical plan makes it a rather eccentric ellipse; but, from the dimensions given by my chain (and they very nearly coincide with those found by Hutchins), and from the circular curve which I got by ordinates drawn to its base from a tangent, I think it was originally almost or quite a circle, on a diameter of about 350 feet; though, from the unequal inroads of the plough at different parts, its long external diameter is now about 345 feet, and its shorter one about five feet less. Stukeley says it is computed to consist of about an acre of ground; which is neither the area his own diameters would give, nor its true one; as the external circumference comprehends about two acres.

The part marked E in the section (see transverse section and plan) is the outward slope of the mound; F a terrace about twelve feet broad, still backed at some places, as between A and D, and on the opposite side of the amphitheatre, by a parapet; G the upper inward slope, originally occupied by seats reaching down to H, which is a walk about eight feet broad, called by Stukeley the *iter circulare*, and rising from the ends, affording to the spectators access to the seats at the slopes G and I, and also to the terrace on the top by the steps in the middle opposite A and B, an ascent, of which the place is still marked by inequalities of the ground; the lower slope for seats. Under L, from which there is a gentle descent into the arena, was the cavea for the animals, and at C was the great entrance.

\* Ingram, in his general rules for the investigation of the names of places, appended to the Saxon Chronicle, defines the Saxon words from which we derive *Bury*, as a place of retreat; and thence *Bury* in the names of many places originated from an earthwork, or a monastery, which were both places of retreat.



Stukeley computed that the amphitheatre would contain more than 12,000 spectators; which is not unlikely, as there were supposed to be 10,000 people within its external circumference at the execution of a Mrs. Mary Channing, the wife of a grocer of Dorchester, who was first strangled and then burnt in the arena for poisoning her husband, the 21st of March, 1705. A spectator standing on the terrace has within sight the great earthwork Maiden Castle, the site of the capital of the Durotriges; Poundbury, which the author of the "History of Dorchester" considers to have been a British Field of Council; and innumerable barrows on the summits of hills to the south and south-west.

Yours, etc. W. BARNES.

[1839, *Part I.*, pp. 527-531.]

Some remarkable remains of past ages having been brought to light in the course of excavations made in lowering the hill in the street of Fordington, Dorchester, I think it is not improbable that some detail of the discoveries may be acceptable to your antiquarian readers.

As, however, the present exploration may be regarded as a continuation of discoveries previously made, it will be well first to describe the locality, and give the amount of the previous exhumations.

Fordington, though now incorporated with Dorchester, was a suburb surrounding the ancient borough; and the inhabited part, or the village, lies contiguous to the east wall of the Roman Durnovaria, extending from the south-east corner to the point at which the Via Iceniana is reputed to have entered that station. The church of Fordington lies on high ground, a few hundred yards to the eastward of the south-east angle of the wall. Hutchins\* informs us that, in 1747, in digging chalk near the pound, which lies a little to the north-west of the church, "were discovered above two hundred skeletons, at the depth of four or five feet. They generally lay north and south; some inclined east and west. The skulls were remarkably thick,† and many of the teeth very sound. By the side of one lay a sword blade, two feet and a half long; six inches appeared to have been broken off, or eaten off by rust." Again, in 1810, in excavations made nearer to the Roman wall than the spot just spoken of, we learn, from the additions to Hutchins,‡ that "human skeletons were found in great numbers, certainly not fewer than a hundred,

\* 1st ed., i. 574; 2nd ed., ii. 342.

† The skulls of all people whose heads have been much exposed are found thick. The negro of Africa and the wild Indian of America, who are not accustomed to any head covering, have skulls of amazing thickness; whilst the skull of the Persian, who constantly wears a high conical cap, is remarkably thin and fragile.

‡ 2nd ed., iv. 411.

and numerous urns of various forms and fragments were discovered. The bodies were lying in various directions, and at varying depths, from four feet to nearly the depth opened (13 feet); of those found deep in the chalk, the bones were white and entire, but light in weight; those not so deep, and surrounded with brown chalk or earth (probably placed round them at the interment), fell to pieces and crumbled away on endeavouring to remove them: the teeth were almost universally good and white, in most instances were in complete sets in the jaw, and not any carious. There were taken up and preserved about twenty urns of different forms and sizes, some of brown earth, others of a reddish kind; some ornamented around with a netlike figure; others with diagonal lines; others surrounded with a wavelike ornament. An urn without contents was frequently found near a body, generally close to the head. The largest urns contained bones partially consumed by fire, and generally without any mixture of earth, as if collected from the burning of the body, the more destructible parts of which were consumed, and probably formed the black earth or ashes near the urn; some were covered with a patera containing charcoal. Most of the small urns did not contain any bones or ashes, and were found near the unburnt skeleton; probably an interment after the practice of burning had ceased. A coin of Hadrian, of middle brass, was found lying on the breast of one of the bodies; it appeared to have been inclosed in linen or some perishable substance, which, on attempting to remove, pulverized into a black powder; the sternum on which it lay is indelibly stained with a green tint, evidently the effect of the corrosion of the coin; the coin is not in good preservation. Not any other was discovered. A number of small round iron knobs were found; also some iron rings, about two inches diameter."

The site of the recent discoveries is immediately between the excavations of 1747 and those of 1810. They were commenced some weeks since, and are just completed. The workmen, in the course of their labours, have exhumed the remains of more than fifty bodies. They had been all deposited entire, with the exception of two instances, in one of which a small quantity of burnt human bones was found, mingled with a little charcoal and ashes; and in the other, some fragments of a large sepulchral urn were turned up, bearing evidence of having been used in an interment by cremation. About half the interments were in the direction of north-east and south-west; the others north-west and south-east; the heads being placed indifferently: and it is a peculiar circumstance that, in almost every instance, two bodies were found in close proximity to each other, one lying at right angles to the other, either at the head or foot, in the form of a Roman T; and it should be remarked that those bodies lying north-west and south-east appear to have been of subsequent interment, lying almost



invariably at a less depth, and frequently so placed that a deeper excavation would have disturbed the other interment. Two of the bodies were lying with the face downwards. That all these bodies had been interred in coffins is manifest. On each side, or at the head and feet, were nails of good construction, of various length, from two to five inches, with clear indications of having been used to fasten planks, the grain of the wood, preserved by the oxydization of the metal, being evident on many. Besides these nails were numerous fragments of manufactured iron;—the blade of a knife, some of the wood of the haft being still distinctly visible;—in several of the graves a number of iron studs with short points, probably used on sandals, being found close to the feet.

One of the interments was marked by peculiar circumstances. The body had been inclosed in a coffin, which was deposited in a species of kistvaen, or hollow cairn, formed of flat stones projecting over each other so as gradually to close it in. The remains were those of a young female, and beneath the skull were found eight elegantly formed colourless glass pins, with spherical heads, narrow necks, and bodies tapering from the shoulder to an exceedingly fine point. They were from two and a half inches to nearly three inches in length, and had a beautiful appearance, being coated with the "electrum" of the antiquaries, produced by incipient decomposition of the glass.

Round the neck of another female was a necklace of small glass and amber beads; the glass chiefly blue; perforated, and united by minute brass links. Round the wrist of this female was an armilla of that bituminous shale found on the coast near Kimmeridge, in this county, and of which the pieces termed Kimmeridge coal money (that *crux antiquariorum*) were made. This armilla had been turned, finished in a manner indicating an advanced state of art, highly polished, grooved, and neatly notched by way of ornament; its interior diameter being two and a half inches. An amulet, or large bead, of the same material, well turned, polished, and ornamented with lines running round it, was found lying at the right foot of this female. It was nearly spherical, being one inch and a quarter in the longer, and one inch in the shorter diameter, perforated through the shorter diameter. At the left foot of this body was a small elegant vessel of fine red ware. It had originally a narrow elongated neck, which was broken. From the shoulder to the foot it stood seven inches high, by two inches and a half in diameter at the widest part.

Two other armillæ and another amulet or bead of the Kimmeridge coal were found with other interments: these armillæ being polished but unornamented; the amulet very similar. Another armilla, of smaller dimension, was found, formed of double brass wire twisted.

In another interment, at the foot of the body—also that of a



female—a considerable number of beads (about 120) were turned up, of various kinds—glass, amber, bone, pearl, and clay; all perforated; one having a dependent heart-shaped amber amulet: there were also several minute bone rings. Some of the beads, both of amber and glass, had been rudely cut into facets.

With another body had been deposited two vessels of hard black ware, of good manipulation, made in a potter's wheel, the one almost globular, five inches high and the same in diameter; the other nearly upright, four inches high by three inches in diameter, having a band-like ornament formed of the zigzag.

There were also found numerous fragments of pottery, of various sorts, of brown, red, and black ware, some indicating an advanced state of art—one glazed, others covered with a shining black pigment, one of a light buff-coloured clay, tinted with a dark-brown on the outside, with an ornamental scroll of white paint. Of the fragments sufficient was obtained in several instances to restore the shape and size of the vessels, which were very various, but generally of similar character to those found in recognised Romano-British interments. These vessels were chiefly small, and presented no indication of any interment by cremation, excepting in the instance before mentioned.

On the breast of one body was a peculiar and somewhat ponderous bronze buckle, doubtless used with a belt, traces of decayed leather being observable about it.

Two coins only were discovered—one of Gratian, of the common third brass, lying in the ground immediately above one of the interments; another, also of the third brass, was placed on the mouth of one body, the whole jaw being tinged green by its oxydization. The obverse of this coin was so much corroded as to be quite illegible.

Between the legs of one of the bodies was a curious mass—nearly a quart—of small pebbles, apparently brought from the seashore, varying in size from that of a small pea to that of a marble; the angles abraded by the action of water, and the surfaces polished as if by constant friction, or being worn about the person.

The bodies lay at depths varying from a few inches to six feet below the surface, being all interred in the chalk. No excavations were made to a greater depth.

The above constitute all the leading circumstances connected with these interesting discoveries, and it will be seen that they comprise several peculiarities.

It is clear from the locality and from all the associated indications, that the recent exhumations, together with those of 1747 and 1810, have been made upon the site of the burial-ground of the Romano-British city of Durnovaria, founded after the conquest of the Durotriges by Vespasian, and the abandonment of their ancient metropolis, Dunium (Maiden Castle). The interments of children, of females bedecked with their ornamental attire, and of males, with

whose remains were deposited drinking-cups and sepulchral vessels which indicate a deliberate and well-arranged depositure, prove this to have been the cemetery of a settled people, and not the hurried burial of those who fell in battle. The practice of burying the dead in established cemeteries, set apart outside the walls of the city, and chiefly by the highways, appears to have been introduced into Britain by the Romans, with whom it was the general custom (not in Italy only, but in the more distant provinces conquered by them), as well as with the Greeks and some other heathen nations, and with the Jews.\* Nor, indeed, was interment within the walls of a city permitted amongst the Christians until 300 years after our era.

It will have been seen that the interments at this burial-place comprised the practices both of cremation and of burying entire in coffins; and the circumstances connected with some of the deposits of the latter description favour the conclusion that the custom of urn burial gave way to that of coffin interment in this country at an earlier period than has generally been supposed. The practice of burning the body and depositing the ashes in urns prevailed commonly among both the Britons and the Romans, more especially with the latter. Numa, indeed, particularly forbade the burning of his own body, commanding it to be laid in a stone coffin;† and Cicero‡ and Pliny§ inform us that the family of the Corneliï interred their dead entire until the time of Sylla, the dictator, who gave express orders to have his body burnt. But these and some other instances are but exceptions, the infrequency and notoriety of which establish the rule. It appears, however, from some of the interments under consideration, that the decline of urn burial had commenced and was gradually proceeding at an early period of that intercourse which took place in this neighbourhood between the Durotrigean tribe and the Romans. The establishment of the Roman power in this part of the country was early and easily effected, and the commixture of races induced a correspondent intermingling of manners and customs; and we may, therefore, expect to find, in the more early years of such intercourse, much of the practices of the Britons still prevailing, mingled with the customs and more advanced art of the Romans, which were engrafted on, and which ultimately eclipsed the customs of the ruder islanders. Thus the peculiar kistvaen above described is unusual to Roman interments; and the occurrence of necklaces of beads of various substances, the placing of small earthen cups near the heads of the bodies interred, etc., are precisely analogous to the practices developed in tumuli of acknowledged British origin;|| whilst the armillæ and beads or amulets of the Kimmeridge coal afford, I believe, a singular

\* Gen. xxv. 9; Joshua xxiv. 30; 2 Chron. xxvi. 23; Matt. xxvii. 52, 53; John xix. 20, 41.

† Plutarch, in Numa.

§ Pliny, N. H. l. 7, c. 54.

‡ Cicero de Leg. l. 2.

|| Hoare's "Tum. Wilt." passim.



instance in which ornaments of that material have been found associated with remains decidedly Roman. The occurrence of the coffins, with their iron nails, by no means establishes these interments to have been of a later period. The evidence of interment in coffins goes back to a very ancient date. . . . That this mode of interment was also known in ancient Rome is manifest from the dying mandate of Numa. . . .

The ornaments of the Kimmeridge coal constitute a highly interesting feature in these interments, and go far to set at rest much of the ingenious conjecture that has been bestowed upon the "coal money," with great skill and much learning, as to its being a relic of Phœnician intercourse. The productions of the Kimmeridge lathe are here found associated with decidedly Romano-British remains; and the fragility of the material repudiates any assumption that they could have been preserved in use for any considerable number of years. The armillæ were doubtless manufactured in the lifetime of the individuals by whom they were worn. They are strongly confirmatory of the conjecture of my friend Mr. Barnes, cited in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for February,\* that a manufactory of such ornaments was established at Kimmeridge; and this is borne out also by the fact recorded by Mr. Miles, in his "Treatise on the Coal Money," that at that place, "in a few instances, parts of rings, made of the shale, are to be found; and they appear to have been not only exquisitely turned, but even highly polished;"† and, even at the present day, fragments of the coal are found on the spot, as if prepared for the lathe. But although the manufacture of armillæ would necessarily produce waste pieces precisely similar to the coal money, still the purpose for which these pieces were carefully preserved is yet left in obscurity; for that they were so preserved, and that they were applied to some use, is manifest from the circumstance that they are generally found in considerable quantities, carefully deposited in a stone cist, or beneath an inverted urn, or connected with other peculiar circumstances, denoting that those articles were regarded as of some importance.

There is no reason to doubt that the burial-place of the city of Durnovaria continued to be so occupied down to the practice adopted in the seventh century of burying the dead in churchyards, at which time, probably, a Christian church was built on or immediately contiguous to its very site, dedicated to St. George, a saint who was at that time acquiring great veneration in this country, from which church of St. George the hundred has derived its name. This merging of the ancient practice of interment into that of burying in cemeteries connected with a church is not a singular occurrence, as the ancient cemetery of the church at Chesterford was situated on

\* *Gentleman's Magazine*, N. S., xi. 114. [See Note 9.]

† Miles Deverel Barrow, 40.



the site of the more ancient Roman burial-place ;\* and that it was the case here is supported by the tradition still current that the churchyard anciently comprised many acres of ground. And the practice is one that so well associates with some of the strongest feelings of our nature, and of which the early Christians were wont to avail themselves, that we may well conjecture such a course to have been frequent.

I am, yours, etc. J. S.

[1840, *Part II.*, p. 528.]

An interesting discovery of Roman remains has been lately made in the meadow adjoining the town of Dorchester, county Dorset, to the eastward. Some men, employed in clearing out and lowering the bed of the river, found a few mutilated Roman coins of the third brass, with a fragment or two of dark ware ; and digging a little deeper in this spot they succeeded in disinterring from three to four hundred coins, curiously intermingled with fragments of thin brass, portions of brass instruments, a fibula, brass rings, rings of twisted wire, the front of a heart-shaped clasp beautifully inlaid with enamel, fragments of Samian pottery, etc., all lying on a hard bed, constituted of a rude kind of cement, composed of the ordinary detritus of the river, with flints, sand, large nails, and other iron fragments, firmly compacted together, and bearing occasional indications of scoria. The coins were nearly all of the third brass, with a few of the first brass, and comprised the reigns of Hadrianus, Antoninus Pius, Faustina the elder, Faustina the younger, Julia Soæmias, Philippus the elder, Valerianus, Gallienus, Salonina, Postumus, Victorinus, Tetricus the elder, Tetricus the younger, Claudius Gothicus, Aurelianus, Tacitus, Probus, Carausius, Allectus, and Maximinus Daza, thus embracing a lapse of time of nearly two hundred years, ranging from A.D. 117 to A.D. 313. Though some few were in fine preservation, the great bulk of these coins was in the worst possible condition, and the fragments of brass, and other circumstances with which they were associated, render it not improbable that they might have formed a collection of metal for the purpose of being recast, though, if this be the case, the discovery being made in the bed of the river can only be accounted for on the supposition that the course of the stream may have been changed since the deposit was made.

[1841, *Part I.*, pp. 81, 82.]

Some labourers digging a vault in Fordington churchyard, near Dorchester, close to the north wall of the church, found, immediately underneath the foundation of the wall, the remains of a horse with a

\* Nenia, 139.

bit in its mouth, a brass buckle, and other relics of the bridle. As this was the site of the burial-ground of the Romano-British city of Durnovaria, it is supposed that the animal was slain on the grave of some warrior of that ancient city. The bit is of iron, with cheek-rings of brass. The rings are in fine preservation, but the iron is greatly corroded.

[1841, *Part II.*, p. 303.]

The labourers employed in levelling the meadow between the river Frome and the north walk of Dorchester, county Dorset, lately found buried in the chalk, close to the bottom of Glyde-path Hill, several human skeletons, near one of which were three small vases, two of the ordinary barrel form, of dark ware, one with a black polished surface, the other of a brown colour and absorbent texture. The third was of a more depressed form, of a light red ware, of a fine soft texture, and of the Græco-Roman character. They were all unornamented; the two former were of the same size and figure, about two inches in height; the third somewhat shorter. They were probably used for holding unguents, oils, or balsams. Round the neck of another of the skeletons was an iron collar, fastening behind with a spring, indicating doubtless that the wearer was in a state of slavery. We know that among the early Anglo-Saxons, the decisive mark of slavery was a collar of iron constantly worn round the necks of all bondmen; but the other remains associated with the bodies, point them out as Romano-British interments, and it is probable, therefore, that a practice similar to that which we find subsequently among the Anglo-Saxons, might have prevailed in this remote colony under the Roman dominion. The instrument is analogous to the Roman *furca*, except that the latter was a collar of wood.

A stone coffin has been exhumed from the west bank of Slyar's Lane, on Mr. Cull's farm at Coker's Frome, about a mile north-east of Dorchester. It was of rude construction, and consisted of a single excavated stone of the Portland oolite, a parallelogram in form, and was without a lid. It contained a skeleton, the bones of which perished on being exposed to the air. The body appeared to have been first enclosed in a wooden coffin, many nails in a state of complete oxydation being found in the earth within this ancient sarcophagus. Conjecture is at a loss to ascertain the period of this interment, or to account for its having taken place in that spot. The coffin was about three feet below the level of the adjoining field, and had probably been deposited prior to the formation of the lane, the gradual wearing down of which had exposed one end of it. It was not near any consecrated site, the nearest being the Chapel Close at Frome Whitfield, where the church of that hamlet formerly stood, and which is nearly half a mile distant. The individual thus interred might possibly have had some connection with some old and extensive

foundations still traceable about a furlong to the west of the spot where the interment was discovered.

[1841, *Part II.*, pp. 413, 414.]

A few days since one of those relics of the Romano-British era that are so frequently brought to light at Dorchester was discovered near the south-western angle of the town. It is a portion of a tessellated pavement found about four feet below the surface by some workmen engaged in digging a tank in a field occupied by Mr. Barnes, builder. This pavement, which was but an imperfect fragment, about fourteen feet by eight feet, formed a portion of the *cœnaculum*, or eating-hall of a Romano-British dwelling, with the recessed *zotheca*, the latter, whilst the dwelling was inhabited, having been separated from the larger rooms by hangings of drapery. The whole of the floor of the *cœnaculum* has been destroyed at some early period, leaving only a portion of the guilloche border, with an outer border of spiral and circular ornaments. From this the floor of the *zotheca*, which was formed of a very favourite pattern in such pavements, was divided by a series of large lozenges. The *tesseræ* were of the usual size, about half an inch square, and the colours were rich and varied, comprising black, red, blue, white, and light brown. The outer border was of coarser white *tesseræ*. As the sinking of the tank was proceeded with, this relic of the Romano-British city of *Durnovaria* has been destroyed, but not before a very correct drawing had been made by Mr. H. Barnes.

1856, *Part II.*, p. 755.]

Two interesting relics of antiquity were recently brought to light by the pickaxe and spade of the labourers employed in excavating the trenches for the sewerage at present progressing in this town. They were found in Pease Lane, near the Unitarian chapel, about two feet below the surface, and consist of two Roman urns, one large and one small, the larger containing the remains of bones: the contents of the smaller are supposed to be the ashes of a heart. They are composed of rough, black earthenware, and are of an oval shape. Unfortunately, the large one was broken by the pickaxe of the excavator.—*Dorchester Paper*.

HALSTOCK.

[1818, *Part I.*, pp. 5, 6.]

I submit you an account of a tessellated pavement lately discovered near Halstock, Dorsetshire. It may prove acceptable to your readers; and if my humble offering is worthy insertion, I shall with much pleasure transmit you a faithful drawing from the original.

I visited this pavement yesterday, about four miles from my house, having set out with the full intention to have taken a drawing for you



immediately, when an event prevented me that I should most certainly have anticipated ; the frost setting in severely, deprived me of the natural animation necessary to complete my purpose.

This pavement was first found by a labourer, about two feet under the surface ; and it is now covered with a temporary building, erected at the expense of Henry Stephen Earl of Ilchester, that nobleman most politely giving me admittance agreeably to my request. It has undergone great dilapidation, and at present remains in a very mutilated state ; the surface of the pavement is much bent, or, more properly said, it has an irregular plane, from the heavy pressure of earth, stone, and rubbish having laid on it such a length of time. Its situation is on an easy rising slope, a north-easterly direction, in the midst of a flat undulated country, stretched out between a spacious amphitheatre of distant hills, from whence they are easily reconnoitred. This spot is very remote from towns or rivers, and in former ages must have been admirably situated for the chase. I have been told by old persons now living, that it is long within their recollection the whole of this space was nearly covered with oak timber, which presented to the eye one of the finest sylvan scenes in the kingdom ; still the traces of them and also large woods remain, corroborating the fact ; alas ! they are level with the ground ; the sturdy hand of avarice, or necessity, has scarcely left a root or branch worthy the appellation of timber.

Lest I should be digressing, I return to the further particulars of the pavement ; it has, of course, an ambiguous origin, further than being a Roman work, which I presume, Sir, we cannot doubt. The dies are variously coloured and proportioned, according to the arrangement of the parts they are to fill. These dies consist of hard, bluish granite stone, bricks, red and black, and white pebble set in a deep bed of excellent white sand mortar, to which it had adhered by a firm cement that the iron tooth of time has rendered flexible.

The angles of this curious masonry are duly north, east, west, and south, forming a diamond shape, having a wide border of the larger dies so placed to meet at right and left angles transversely.

Within this border, that is, alternately stone and red brick on each side, a circular sort of fillet in fretwork goes round, taking off the square of the corners, very nicely and mathematically adjusted ; in each of these intermediate spaces is a small circle, each containing the head of a warrior in his helmet, the back of which is represented having a double cross in an oblique position from right to left, extending far over the shoulders ; the successive parts inclining to the centre are thrown into squares, and intersected by parallel lines of different colours ; these are again divided into lesser squares, leaving a space at right and left, filling up a diamond centre in each square ; the centre of the whole is the next part connected with a large mathematical encircled star on one side. This part presents

the perfect figure of a face within a circle, very like the rest, with the difference only of being larger, and of a richer construction ; the face is ornamented with a sort of irregular ruff or crest round the whole forehead as far as the ears.

Yours, etc. JOHN BELLAMY.

HOD HILL.

[1840, *Part I.*, pp. 635, 636.]

Much speculation having been excited among the curious in antiquarian researches in these parts with regard to some circular perforated stones with flat sides which were dug up in the course of last summer between the front of a Roman camp and the outer agger of some British works on Hod Hill in this parish, and participating myself in the curiosity so generally felt as to their age and use, permit me to draw the attention of your contributors on such subjects to the stones in question, and to solicit their elucidation of the purpose for which they were employed, and which at present remains but problematical with all who have examined them, and many of whom are not devoid of sagacity and learning.

The material of which these stones consist is a fine sandstone, and certainly far too soft and friable in its nature for grinding corn, or for sharpening implements of agriculture, or any other articles of cutlery. Their diameters vary from  $15\frac{1}{2}$  to 9 inches ; their circumference from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 feet, their depth from  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches to 3 inches. Each is perforated with a circular hole, the diameter of which in the largest stone is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the top, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the bottom ; in the smallest 4 inches at the top, and 3 at the bottom. These holes, be it remarked, are circular, and gradually diminishing in diameter from one side of the stones to the other ; and this fact, in my humble opinion, at once proves the impossibility of their having been used for the purposes of grinding or sharpening, independently of the consideration of the nature of their material.

It may, perhaps, be superfluous to say that of the various conjectures concerning their use, some are, not to say as absurd, yet as amusing as the opinion prevalent in our villages, and which therefore I have presumed to call the village hypothesis, with respect to the purpose for which the tumuli, or mounds, on our downs were constructed, to cover those who were murdered by tramps ; but one conjecture, and which it is but due to the worthy individual to state first occurred to a highly respectable and well-informed yeoman in the neighbourhood, appears to me so well grounded and sagacious that I cannot help submitting it, through your columns, to the consideration of the antiquarian world. The gentleman alluded to is of opinion that the stones in question were used by the Roman officers for the purpose of keeping steady their *amphoræ* or jars of wine. These jars we know tapered from their shoulders,

and ended in a narrow base; and we also know that the ancient Egyptians, and likewise the Romans, fixed their wine jars in stones of this description, for the reason above-mentioned. J. C. PRATTENT.

[1865, *Part II.*, p. 299.]

I have had a favourable opportunity of examining at leisure most of the recent discoveries made at Hod Hill, and now preserved, with many other valuable local antiquities, in the museum of Mr. Durden, of Blandford. The early Roman coins found within the site of the Roman camp and its environs upon Hod Hill are peculiarly important in fixing an approximate if not a positive date to the weapons, implements, and ornaments. Mr. Durden has secured a considerable number more recently, nearly the whole of which are of Claudius. It was feared that the interesting Roman camp within the British fortifications upon Hod Hill had been sacrificed to agricultural requirements, but it appears there was help at hand to preserve this extremely interesting earthwork in Sir Edward B. Baker, who has acquired the property, with a view to preserve effectually the ancient remains.

C. ROACH SMITH.

#### LULWORTH.

[1791, *Part II.*, p. 1097.]

Plate III., Figs. 1, 2, is a small statue representing a female figure with such an instrument in its right hand as appears, from other statues and medals, to have been sometimes used in striking the cymbal, or rather the tympanum, while the left arm, which rests upon the hip, appears to support something which was probably intended for a small cymbal, or rather tympanum, such as was appropriated to the orgies of Cybele by her frantic votaries; of whom Horace makes mention in his *Palinodia*, Ode xvi., lib. i.

“Non acuta  
Sic geminant Corybantes æra.”

So also Catullus, in his *Atys*, describing these orgies, says—

“Leve tympanum remugit, cava cymbala recrepant.”

May not this statue then represent a female Corybant, or perhaps the Goddess Cybele herself? In which case we may suppose she has been deprived by some accident of her turreted crown. Both the figure and pedestal are of brass or mixed metal, the latter of which has been ornamented with enamel, and perforated with iron; from which circumstance we may conjecture that it may have served the purpose of a handle to a sacrificing knife, or other similar instrument. I shall be happy to see a more probable explanation of this curiosity by any of your learned correspondents. It was found some time ago in digging near Lulworth Castle, in Dorsetshire, not far from the Roman entrenchment which I mentioned in my account of the barrows we opened in that neighbourhood last year. J. MILNER.



## MELBURY ABBAS HILL.

[1846, *Part II.*, p. 633.]

A short time since, while some labourers were employed in rooting up an old coppice, near Melbury Abbas Hill, Dorset, they discovered two human skeletons about 2 feet below the surface. On searching they found, under one of the skeletons, a brass coin of Antoninus Pius, in good preservation; it is in the possession of Mr. Roberts, chemist, etc., Shaftesbury.

## PRESTON, NEAR WEYMOUTH.

[1844, *Part I.*, pp. 185, 186.]

The dry summer of 1842 having shown in the then growing crops of corn in a field at Preston indications of extensive buildings, excavations were in the spring of the past year made, which soon brought to view the foundations of a massive wall 5 feet in thickness, and forming a square of about 280 feet; within this quadrangle was the foundation of another building 35 feet square: the soil within this inner building was removed, and the few coins and fragments of pottery which were turned up clearly proved it to be of Roman origin. But the most singular discovery made was that of a shaft sunk in the south-east corner, which was about 4 feet by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet in diameter, and nearly 15 feet deep. The contents of this pit were of a very peculiar character; the sides had thin flat stones placed round, which, from holes in many of them, appeared to have been previously used for the covering (as at the present day) of a roof. On penetrating into the shaft a layer of charcoal and ashes was met with; then a double layer of the same description of flat stones covered the whole area of the shaft; between these stones was deposited a quantity of small (chiefly birds')\* bones, and third-brass coins of apparently the lower empire, but their condition was such that (with the exception of one of Theodosius) they could not be appropriated. Six or seven of these layers of charcoal and flat stones with bones and coins were continued in succession, when a straight sword about 22 inches in length and much corroded was found. Under this were seven more continuous layers as before, which brought us to the bottom of the pit; here was a larger sword (36 inches long), and straight as the other, with numerous fragments of iron, viz., spear-heads, rings, crooks, part of the handle of a

\* Some years since, "in digging within the ruins of the Priory at Christ Church, Hants, a cavity was found, about 2 feet square, which contained about half a bushel of birds' bones, such as herons, bitterns, and domestic fowls, mostly well preserved. Extraordinary as this phenomenon may seem," observes Warner, "there is no difficulty in accounting for it, if we advert to the superstition of the ancient Romans, and to the practices of the early Christians. Among the former, many species of birds were held in high veneration, and carefully preserved for the purpose of sacrificial and augurial divination."

bucket,\* of similar shape with that in use at the present time, and various other articles, all which appeared to have undergone the action of fire. With these were also fragments of coarse pottery, and two vessels of the same description of ware, which were entire, and whose shape indicated their adaptation to domestic uses. [See Note 10.]

The shaft was probed to its bottom ; but, as the land was about to be sown with corn, it was necessary that the excavations should here be discontinued ; a circumstance to be regretted, as but a small portion of the ground in the space between the outer and inner walls was moved. The only interesting objects here discovered were the bases of two pillars of apparently the Doric order, both of which must have been displaced from their original position.

The numerous fragments of Roman pottery strewn over the adjoining soil, as well as the circumstance of the finding in the same field in 1812 an urn filled with Roman coins, chiefly of the tyrants from Gordian to Posthumus (many of which in the finest condition I have in my collection), establish the fact of extensive Roman occupation. I feel a diffidence in hazarding a conjecture on these singular discoveries, particularly as regards the shaft, further than that I think it is quite evident that its contents must have formed a series of sacrificial deposits. With reference to the building itself, I would merely suggest the probability of the interior portion having been used by the Romans as a pharos,† of which the outward wall was used as a protection. The structure occupied a site most advantageously placed for such an object, being situated about a quarter of a mile from the shore, on an eminence commanding the whole of the beautiful bay of Weymouth, in addition to an extensive view of the Channel. An ancient *via*, which led from hence to the landing-place on the shore, is still easily traced.

On returning from the scene of our operations to the village of Preston, in crossing a pasture field some slight indications offered

\* Singular as the finding of the handle of a bucket, of a shape in use at the present time, may appear, yet it is not without precedent, as I find in the twenty-seventh volume of the "Archæologia," p. 148, a report by that indefatigable antiquary, Charles Roach Smith, Esq., of discoveries in London, and of the exhumation of a quantity of earthen vases, in a kind of well, planked round with large boards, on the site of the present Moorgate Street, with the contents of the well. The writer enumerates a small Samian patera, with the ivy-leaf border, and a few figured pieces of the same, as found at the bottom of the well ; also a small brass coin of Allectus with the reverse of the galley, "Virtus Aug.," and moreover two iron implements, resembling a boat-hook and a *bucket* handle. "The latter of these carries such a homely and modern look," observes Mr. Smith, "that, had I no further evidence of its history than the mere assurance of the excavators, I should instantly have rejected it."

† Fosbroke's "Ency. Antiq.," article "Lighthouses," says : "They were round towers, of three or four stories, each smaller than the other ; some were 'square,' others 'octagonal,' " etc. ; and quotes from Pennant's "History of Whiteford and Holywell," fol. 112, the description of one then (1794) remaining in the former parish.



themselves, which impressed us with all but a conviction that we were treading on the ruins of bygone ages. The temptation was great ; the impulse of the moment allayed all scruples ; and a few minutes sufficed to remove the surface of the soil to the extent of about a yard square, when we at once found ourselves on Roman remains, turning up, with building stones, fragments of the well-known tile, pottery, and one or two tesserae, with a coin of the Luperalian series in good condition. Unwilling to trespass, or prosecute our new discovery without permission, we reluctantly replaced the green sward, with the hope of being allowed, at some future day, to resume our researches.

C. WARNE.

#### RADIPOLE.

[1845, *Part I.*, p. 79.]

Mr. Medhurst has been lately prosecuting his researches in the neighbourhood of Radipole. On removing the soil of a bank adjoining the public road leading to Radipole, on the brow of the rising ground a little westward of the Spa, he found a skeleton lying nearly east and west ; an urn was found in the right hand, and preserved quite perfect ; it was of the common black clay. He also found two other skeletons and two more urns, one of the black clay, the other the red or Samian ; he also found one near of a different shape of yellow clay, with signs of a handle on the side. A few days afterwards he made further search a little eastward, but still on the brow of the hill, and within 2 feet of the surface he found a skeleton lying east and west on its face, the left arm crossing the back, and within the bend of the arm, against its side, an urn of the common black clay, which fell to pieces in spite of every endeavour to preserve it ; the soil being damp, the urn was in a state of decomposition. Close to this skeleton another was found in a reverse position, the head lying towards the east. Neither of these skeletons was perfectly straight, the second was rather crossing the former. A few feet distant a female skeleton was found, lying nearly north and south, the head southward, the left arm crossing the back, the right hand by its side holding a knife, the blade partaking the shape of a pruning-knife ; it was much corroded ; the legs of the skeleton were crossed. At the feet of this skeleton the head of another came in close contact, the legs bending towards the west. Several other skeletons were found lying in different directions, one of remarkably large size, having at his feet an urn of the common black clay, but from its perishable condition too far gone to be preserved ; some of the skeletons were observed lying across each other, and in some instances only portions of skeletons were met with. Numerous pieces of pottery, evidently of broken urns, a great quantity of stones and remains of pitching, with scattered parcels of ashes, indicative of the action of fire, with jawbones of sheep, teeth of an ox and boar, and a few shells of the common cockle, were found



mixed among the earth. It is worthy of remark that these remains were found near a Roman causeway, and it is evident the soil is artificial, being very different from that a few yards distant; this made soil is within an area of about 150 yards. As this land was enclosed about sixty years ago, the line of the road from Weymouth to the village of Radipole passing over it, unquestionably caused the removal of a portion of the soil, when the skeletons, etc., might have been disturbed to a certain extent, as the broken pottery and irregular position of some of the skeletons plainly indicates such an occurrence, no caution being used in examining or taking care of such remains by the parties engaged in the work at that time. The knife found with the female skeleton was given to W. Eliot, Esq., the proprietor of the land where the remains were met with; the other articles preserved are in the possession of Mr. Medhurst, who is indefatigable in his pursuit and search for Roman remains in this neighbourhood, and by whose discrimination and perseverance the late interesting relics have been brought into public notice.

The finding of skeletons in this locality is by no means unusual; several have been lately met with on Buckland Rippers Farm, in ploughing the ground, and also on Tatton Farm, in the same parish; several have been found in stone coffins, but, as no search has been particularly made for coins, they have been seldom discovered. A denarius of Constantine was a little while ago taken up with the soil at the Back Water, Weymouth, in indifferent preservation.

#### SPETTISBURY.

[1857, *Part II.*, p. 662.]

The navvies employed on the first section of the Dorset Central Railway, extending from Wimborne to Blandford, on making a deep cutting in Castle Hill, on one side of the road leading through the village of Spettisbury, disinterred a large quantity of human bones, among which were as many as seventy skulls. The whole of the bones were detached, and when found presented a crushed and broken appearance. In one of the skulls was discovered a spear-head firmly fixed, the shaft having been evidently broken off before the body was interred; various weapons of war, such as swords, daggers, spear-heads, with ornamental buckles and other fastening for the dress, and a brass boiler-shaped vessel, evidently used for culinary purposes, exhibiting superior workmanship, were found with the human remains. The probability is that the disturbed burial-place was a large grave, in which the bodies of the slain were hurriedly and promiscuously deposited, with the fragments of the weapons of war they had used in the fight. No doubt can be entertained but that the spot where the remains were discovered formed part, sixteen or seventeen hundred years since, of a Roman encampment, surrounded by earthen outworks, and was probably occupied at the time the Romans advanced from the western

coast into the heart of the country. The weapons of war and other ancient curiosities found have been compared with those of known Roman character, and correspond in every essential particular. The whole of the remains have been carefully preserved by Mr. Davis, the contractor of the railway, who appears to feel much gratification in exhibiting them to those who are curious to examine them.—*Sherborne Journal*.

## Durham.

### MUNCREMOUTH.

[1763, *p.* 492.]

A few weeks ago a gentleman from Durham was brought to see me, who showed me some large teeth and two Roman coins. The teeth, he said, he took out of the jaw of a gigantic skeleton of a man, and the coins were found in the grave near it. The account he gives is in substance as follows :

Upon Fullwell Hills, near Muncremouth, in the county of Durham, and within a measured mile of the sea, there are quarries of lime which he rents of the proprietor. In the year 1759 he removed a ridge of limestone and rubble upon one of these quarries, which he was digging in search of stone that was there very good (the ridge was about 25 yards in length from east to west, its perpendicular height was about a yard and a half, its breadth at the top was near 6 yards, and the sides were sloping like the ruins of a rampart). In the middle of this bank was found the skeleton of a human body, which measured 9 feet 6 inches in length, the shin-bone measuring 2 feet 3 inches from the knee to the ankle ; the head lay to the west, and was defended from the superincumbent earth by four large flat stones, which the relator, a man of great probity, who was present when the skeleton was measured, and who himself took the teeth out of the jaw, saw removed. The coins were found on the south side of the skeleton, near the right hand.

Yours, etc. P. COLLINSON.

### STANEMORE.

[1862, *Part II.*, *pp.* 47, 48.]

We have been requested to reproduce a letter that has appeared in a local paper on the threatened destruction of the very interesting Roman remains on Stanemore. We shall be glad if the matter is thus brought to the notice of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, or the newly founded Architectural and Archæological Society of Durham and Northumberland, or indeed of any persons who may have influence enough to prevent the wanton destruction of these fine historical monuments.

"SIR,—Visiting, as I occasionally do, the county of Durham, and being much interested in the antiquities of this country, I availed myself of the opportunity afforded by the line of railway from Barnard Castle to Tebay to examine the highest Roman station on Stanemore. The train stopping for a moment at the summit level, allows a visitor to the moor to alight there, where he can enjoy sufficient leisure to examine the highest Roman station—that of Maiden Castle—on the line of Roman road, before the next train returns to take him back; and, if the day be fine, a walk of two hours on the moor, especially at this season, is most agreeable. Having some years since examined the station at Bowes, I was very desirous to see that of Maiden Castle, and found to my great gratification that an angle of the fort had been uncovered, and that the walling was perfect to the height of five courses of stone, and laid open for a space of about 20 feet, which sufficiently showed the curve at the angle of the camp. The wall had been dug through apparently for the purpose of ascertaining its thickness, which was about 6 feet or a little more, as I had not my measuring-line to ascertain it correctly, but the section exposed the inner construction, which was rubble, mixed with lime and powdered brick or gravel. The mortar had, however, become decomposed. The wall round the camp remains perfect in all its lower courses, but the superstructure being ruined has covered it with *débris*; but it remains quite perfect underneath, and is an excellent example of Roman masonry. The area enclosed is a square of about 40 paces each way, or it may be a parallelogram of about 40 paces by 45, as I could not measure it very exactly. The Roman road passes straight through the station, and is worn into a hollow about 8 feet wide, which may be traced to some distance on each side. The angles of the camp are rounded off, in the same manner as at Borcovicus, on the line of the Roman wall in Northumberland, and as appears to have been the case in most Roman stations where the walls are at all preserved.

"The walls of this fort being so perfect render it a point of great archæological interest, and I supposed that the section through the south wall, near the angle, had been made for the purpose of ascertaining if any wall existed, or if the rampart were constructed only of loose stones, as is sometimes the case. I have been informed, however, that the section was made only *to obtain stones for other purposes*, and that the whole fort may be destroyed with this object! I trust this is not *really the case*, but I am desirous to call attention to the subject, that, if possible, so interesting an historical monument may be preserved. It is only in remote places on moors that we still find Roman stations with their walls existing to a certain height, showing the true structure of their forts—that they were not always earthen mounds with a palisade on the top, but regularly walled, and



strengthened with towers where the wall from its extent required such additions.

“In the station at Bowes, which has been a very fine one, all the stones have been removed, either for the purpose of building the fine Norman keep, or else, subsequently, for building the houses of the town; thus we can only trace the earthen embankment on which the wall was built, and in the same manner at Greta Bridge, where the foundation-stones of the walls alone are perceptible; but on Stanemore you have the wall perfect to five courses of masonry. Surely where stone is so plentiful, as on the moor, there can be no necessity for destroying a relique to which such associations attach, and which still remains a monument of the iron grasp which the masters of the world held upon this island; while I think I may say their roads testify the pains they took to civilize and to benefit the regions they conquered.

“H. M. SCARTH, M.A.”

#### STANHOPE.

[1839, *Part II.*, p. 408.]

I beg to forward, for the amusement of your antiquarian readers, some account of a Roman inscription noticed in your magazine just ninety years since in the present month. Very little notice has been taken of it. The altar that bears it is still at the Rectory House, Stanhope, and quite legible, as may be seen from the following copy of it communicated to me by the Rev. W. N. Darnell, D.D., Rector of that parish. There is also a copy of the inscription by Dr. Taylor, in the “*Philosophical Transactions*,” No. 486, p. 173; and Gough says that Mr. Drake communicated it to the Society of Antiquaries in 1751, with some variations of no consequence. From the immense quantities of the tusks and the bones of boars about the Roman stations, on and near the barriers of Hadrian, it is plain that they had been exceedingly abundant in the Roman age. [Huebner, p. 95.]

<sup>1</sup>SILVANO INVICTO SACRUM <sup>2</sup>C. TETIVS VETVRIVS M[I]CIA<sup>3</sup>NVS  
PRAE ALAE SEBOSIAN<sup>4</sup>NAE OB APRVM EXIMIAE <sup>5</sup>FORMAE CAPTVM  
QVEM <sup>6</sup>MVLT<sup>7</sup>I ANTECESS<sup>8</sup>ORES EIVS PRAEDARI <sup>9</sup>NON POT-  
VERVNT ·VS·L·P.—Silvano invicto sacrum Caius Tetius Veturius Macianus,  
praefectus aë Sebosianæ, ob aprum eximiæ formæ captum quem multi anteces-  
sors ejus prædari non potuerunt voto suscepto libenter posuit.

#### Essex.

##### BARTLOW HILLS.

[1832, *Part I.*, p. 162.]

John Gage, Esq., Director of the Society of Antiquaries, with permission of Viscount Maynard, in January last opened the line of smaller barrows at the Bartlow Hills, on the borders of Essex and Cambridgeshire, and found some remarkable Roman antiquities in

each barrow. In the first barrow there were various pateræ of Samian ware, glass vessels, an iron lamp, and small earthenware urns. The second barrow contained a brick sepulchre, beautifully made, and in it was found a large glass vase, two-thirds full of liquid, and containing human bones ; and on the bones lie a gold ring and a brass coin of the Emperor Hadrian. Among other articles were a hooped wooden tankard and some basket-work. The third barrow contained other glass vases, one of them with human bones, and also a bronze urn and dish.

## BILLERICAY.

[1847, *Part II.*, p. 411.]

Fragments of pottery have been found in the fields to the south of Billericay in such profusion as to leave no doubt that it was formerly a Roman burial-place. Several vases which contained human bones have been deposited in the Chelmsford Museum, where Mr. C. Roach Smith gave a lecture on the subject. Upon reference to a map of Roman roads in Essex, Mr. Smith said he found a road running through Billericay towards the water. Apart from the evidence which the vases themselves give of their Roman origin, there were other reasons for supposing that they were Roman, and not Saxon. It was a rule with that nation to deposit their vases in groups, but they never buried weapons with their dead. Passing from the Roman to the Saxon epoch, instruments of iron were sure to be found in their deposits, as well as other manufactured articles, and by comparison with articles found elsewhere, of which the date was known, their age was determined. With regard to the British there was a great deal of doubt as to what might be so designated. Mr. Repton had found some vases which were of a rougher kind and more elegant shape, but from the Roman pottery that had been discovered on the banks of the Medway, it was probable they were manufactured there.

[1852, *Part II.*, p. 295.]

More sepulchral Romano-British remains have been dug up near Billericay, in Essex. The urns or vases discovered present in themselves nothing very remarkable, but the fact of their extending over so much ground has been overlooked by topographers, and may be recorded to show that a Roman population of some extent inhabited the site of Billericay.

## BRADWELL-JUXTA-MARE.

[1865, *Part II.*, pp. 403-408.]

One of the most interesting discoveries of the day has recently been made at St. Peter's-on-the-Wall, near Bradwell, in Essex, by Mr. J. Oxley Parker. For a considerable time Mr. Parker has directed excavations to be made around the ruined church or chapel

of St. Peter, situate on the sea-margin about a mile from the village of Bradwell.\* The result determines the position of the fortress Othona, which occurs in the list of castra on the *Littus Saxonicum* as given in the "Notitia Dignitatum et Administrationum," etc., but respecting the precise location of which there was heretofore some doubt.

"Ithancester," as the place was called in the Saxon times, either if the name be restricted to the Roman fortress, or if it were given to a town adjoining it, of which there are now no visible remains, has a close affinity to Othona, and can easily be believed to have taken its form from the Roman word; and that Ithancester was at or close to what is now Bradwell, there can be no doubt. Moreover, the castrum was to be looked for at or near this locality. But no remains met the eye. When I visited the place some years since, I noticed foundations of Roman masonry cropping up to the surface of the ground near the chapel,† and I discerned that portions of the chapel itself had been constructed with Roman materials; but no evidence existed of the site of one of those strongly built, wide-walled castra, such as we can yet see at Reculver, at Richborough, at Lymne, and at Pevensey. Neither was it obvious nor feasible that, according to tradition, the Roman station had been destroyed by the sea. Coins and pottery had been found from time to time; but neither these nor the facing-stones, the tiles and lumps of Roman mortar in the walls of the ruined chapel, proved more than that some Roman building or buildings stood upon or close to the site of the chapel.

It was also to be considered that the number of castra given in the "Notitia" was complete, if tested by existing remains. There is a submerged Roman fortress at Felixstowe on the Suffolk coast, not far from the mouth of the Orwell, portions of which are yet to be traced at low water. It must have been garrisoned a considerable number of years, for the cemetery, lying farther inland, is not yet wholly washed away by the sea. Had not the name Ithancester pointed to Bradwell, there was no reason why these remains should not have been accepted as indicating the site of Othona. Now, however, the excavations made by order of Mr. Parker have determined the site of this station, while, at the same time, they serve to show that another station, not mentioned in the "Notitia," was placed on the Saxon shore at what is now called Felixstowe. Its name will probably ever remain unknown.

Mr. Parker is continuing the excavations with a view to trace out the entire remains of the walls, and to ascertain what vestiges of buildings, if any, may be found within the area of the castrum or on the exterior adjoining the walls. Up to the present time the result

\* *Gentleman's Magazine*, January, 1865, p. 67.

† On reference to my "Antiquities of Richborough," etc., I observe I spoke of them as a *rampart*.



is the discovery of the line and foundations of the walls of the castrum on the north, south, and west. To me it was not at all evident there had ever been a wall on the eastern side facing the sea. The walls are upwards of 14 feet in width, and on the western side are the foundations of two towers, one of which is semicircular, the other of the horse-shoe form. The walls are constructed much in the same manner as those of the sister castra at Reculver, Richborough, Lymne, etc. Boulders and rough stones form the foundations: the body is composed of rubble cemented together in long and deep masses by the well-known impervious mortar, which helps to distinguish Roman masonry from that of all subsequent periods, and which is the wonder and despair of modern masons. The facing is of small squared stones, bonded at intervals by tiles. On the south side the mode of construction is well shown in a fragment of considerable length, which, in one part, stands from 6 to 8 feet in height. Here the lower course of bonding tiles projects as a set-off in an unusual manner. Each of the three rows of tiles graduates outwards from the vertical line of the wall, the outermost and lowest row forming a perpendicular junction with the stoned face of the wall at its lowest course. This will be understood by aid of an engraved sketch and diagram.

The sketch is taken from the upper or western side of the south wall, looking towards the sea. Besides giving a notion of the architectural peculiarities of the wall, it shows how the ground in the interior has accumulated in the course of time. The top of what remains of the wall is level with the interior surface, and not the slightest portion was visible prior to the commencement of the excavations. The section is added to show more clearly the arrangement of the tiles and stones in the set-off.

The foundations of two towers only, as before observed, have been exposed. A little further excavation will probably prove whether these were solid or hollow. We have examples of both in these military fortresses. So far as I could judge on the occasion of my visit, they appear to have been built like those at Dax, in the department of the Landes, of which I have given an account in the fifth volume of my "*Collectanea Antiqua*." They were solid at the bottom, but at a certain height hollow. These towers were appended not merely to give additional strength to the massive walls of the fortresses, but to enable also the garrison to watch the approach of an enemy, and to obstruct besieging operations. At Richborough there is evidence of similar constructions of the towers.\* These towers were surmounted by woodwork and a roof. These very indispensable additions were intended, I make no doubt, to be shown in the numerous coins of the Constantine family, which exhibit the walls and gates of fortresses, such as this at Bradwell.

\* See my "*Antiquities of Richborough*," etc., p. 41.

The chief entrance to the castrum appears to have been in the centre of the west wall, opposite the road which leads from the village, bearing unquestionable characteristics of Roman origin. The only vestiges of Roman buildings which have yet been uncovered are beneath and adjoining the chapel of St. Peter; and towards the construction of which they have been made subservient. These foundations extend within the castrum some 20 feet beyond the chapel, towards the east, in a semicircle; and on the north in a square of about 12 feet. Upon these foundations, which probably were those of the prætorium, and also upon the west wall itself, stands the old and ruined chapel of St. Peter. It seems to have been built entirely out of materials taken from the Roman castrum: the facing-stones belonged to the great walls, and the tiles, which were also numerous and arranged *more Romano*, were taken from the walls, and probably from less substantial buildings in the interior. For this chapel, and probably for other mediæval structures in the neighbourhood, Othona served as a lucrative quarry; and this fact will partly explain why few, if any, remains of houses have been discovered within the area of the castrum: the materials of the dwellings of the soldiers being more easily convertible to building purposes than the great walls, they would be the first to be appropriated and swept away. Stone in the Bradwell district was valuable; and the deserted bulwarks of Othona were doubtless soon seized upon with avidity by the successors of the Roman occupants.

The castrum of Othona must have been one of the least in extent, if not the smallest, of the stations on the Littus Saxonicum. So far as my eye could determine, I should estimate the space within the walls to be under three acres. The number of troops in garrison here is not determined by the word *numerus*, denoting a detachment or body of soldiers, large or small, a *numerus* of the Abulci being quartered at Anderida (Pevensey), which was a large station, and must have required a much stronger garrison than Othona. The Fortenses quartered at the latter would appear to have been so called not from country or place, but from their valour (*Fortis*), as the Divitenses from *Dives*: and others from like qualities. Most of the fortresses on the Saxon Shore, as the eastern and southern maritime boundary of Britain was termed in the decline of the Roman Empire, were probably the latest of all the Roman strongholds in Britain. They are only referred to in connection with the Saxon Shore, which, as given in the "Notitia," extended from what is now Brancaster in Norfolk to Shoreham in Sussex; and probably even beyond those extreme fortresses. The absence of lapidary inscriptions, in comparison with the stations *per lincam valli*, along the line of the great wall in the north, indicates military tenure of comparatively restricted duration; and the Saxons only became really formidable and



dangerous to the Roman provinces towards the days of Valens and Valentinian.

If the discoveries at Bradwell have brought to light nothing very striking or novel as regards architectural remains or miscellaneous objects, such as are often found in such localities, they are nevertheless not profitless to any but the unimaginative and unthinking. The vestiges of Othona are important when regarded, as they should be, in connection with the history of Roman Britain, and the bold and masterly system of defence adopted to hold the rich and fertile province against the growing strength of fierce and adventurous invaders, yearly more and more confident in their own power, and convinced of the increasing weakness of the Roman government. These fortresses, aided by fleets, were so situated that the coasts and mouths of the chief rivers were well protected against the piratical Saxons, as they were called, and as they really were; but such defences were invulnerable only so long as they were manned and directed by Roman energy. The instant the garrisons were withdrawn, Britain, with a population numerically far stronger than that of the invading hordes, became defenceless. The great towns, never allowed or taught to unite against the hour of danger, fell, one by one, victims of the splendid but selfish and narrow-minded rule to which for so long a period they had been subjected.

The coins found during the excavations I have not yet examined. They are not very numerous; and, as might have been expected, are mostly of the latest times of the Empire. Two, a sceatta and a penny, are Saxon. The skeletons dug up within the area of the castrum are, of course, not to be considered as Roman.

Nothing can be more complete and satisfactory than the mode adopted by Mr. Oxley Parker to lay open the walls and the inclosed ground. This he is doing at his own sole expense. If his enlightened liberality should not be rewarded with objects of much show or interest in a public museum or private collection, he will, I am sure, feel amply compensated in the gratitude of all who can properly estimate the historical value of such researches.

C. ROACH SMITH.

CHELMSFORD.

[1840, *Part II.*, pp. 258, 259.]

In clearing away a hedge last autumn in Cherry Garden Lane, between Widford and Chelmsford, a quantity of small broken pieces of Roman pottery were discovered, but their size hardly exceeded four inches, and they were all crowded together in a mass occupying a space of about one or two cubic yards. They were chiefly fragments of rims, of about seventeen different forms and sizes. I conjecture that there was a Roman manufactory of urns somewhere in the vicinity, which may hereafter be discovered, and that the broken



pieces were thrown away by the Roman manufacturer. Among the fragments was found a metal instrument resembling the lower part of a walking-stick ; its ornaments are of enamel, and the design is in a good taste, but coarsely executed, when compared to the workmanship of the present day. There cannot be the least doubt of its being Roman, and it has been suggested that it formed the tube by means of which a standard was fixed upon its staff or pole, as shown in some of the representations of Roman military processions. The general colour is the green erugo which brass acquires by antiquity ; in the upper row the ornaments are alternately light blue or green, and dark blue ; in the second, dark blue ; in the third, green ; in the fourth and sixth as the second, and the fifth as the first. The upper end appears to have suffered from fire. It is of the same size as the cut.

Two or three small Roman coins of the lower empire have been recently found, opposite to the new chapel at Moulsham, near the road ; and also one of brass of Vespasian.

Between the Cherry Garden and the new chapel, close to the right side of the high road, a few plain Roman urns were found. Three of them were placed in a triangular position.

The annexed sketch represents a Roman urn, about six inches high, which was discovered last summer, between Springfield and Chelmsford, in clearing away the soil to make the railroad.

I also add a representation of a Roman jug of dark brown clay, which was found six feet below the bottom of a pond at Stow Mareys, about five or six miles from Maldon. It is now in the possession of Mr. T. J. Grant, of Boreham.

Yours, etc. J. A. R.

#### CHESTERFORD.

[1848, *Part II.*, p. 633.]

At Chesterford, the Hon. R. C. Neville having recently commenced excavating that interesting portion of the borough-field described by Stukeley as inclosing the remains of the "Temple Umbra," has investigated accurately the plan laid down by that celebrated antiquary, the result of which proves the incorrectness of his statements, the remains being decidedly those of a dwelling-house rather than a temple. It may not be generally known that there are at present the foundations of no less than three Roman buildings within the space of a mile, which have been lately excavated by Mr. Neville, open to public inspection ; namely, a dwelling-house and temple in the parish of Ickleton, and a dwelling-house in the parish of Great Chesterford.

#### COLCHESTER.

[1794, *Part II.*, p. 801.]

Indignation makes me write hence, having just seen a beautiful mosaic pavement in the yard of one Bragg, a baker, in Bear Lane, in this town, which was discovered about two years ago, and is going

fast to ruin, as dirt of all kinds is thrown upon it, which is with violence scrubbed off, when anyone wishes to see the pavement, with brooms. Do you know anything of this pavement? It is really much more beautiful than that engraved in Morant's "History of Colchester." What remains of it is part of a circle surrounded in part by a square; the circle is very imperfect as well as the square; but in one of the corners of the square is a fine urn, and on one side of the square is a beautiful border. The tesserae of the whole are very thin, not more than one-eighth part of an inch thick; the colours are charming. In Sparrow's Plan of Colchester Bear Lane is called St. Martin's Lane.

J. W.

[1842, *Part II.*, p. 526.]

Considerable excavations having been lately made in a field called Cheshunt Field, nearly opposite to Mr. Woodward's house, on the Maldon Road from Colchester, and about a quarter of a mile from the Leather Bottle, in Lexden parish, the foundations of a building, supposed to be a Roman villa, have been laid bare. The extent is of such magnitude that it is questioned if the remains of any Roman villa in this kingdom are of equal extent. A small portion only has been traced at present. Three sides of a square have been discovered, with a double wall of considerable thickness, leaving a clear space between them of 14 feet. The measurement of the exterior wall in length is 285 feet, and of the inner 265 feet. Numerous coins have been thrown up during the excavations; amongst these a "Titus," 2nd brass; reverse, "Judea Capta." "Helena," 3rd brass, and a "Carausius," 3rd brass, in fine preservation, struck upon the treaty made by that usurper with Diocletianus and Maximianus. The fragments found are broken urns, bricks, tiles, boars' teeth, bones of animals, mortar, etc.

[1843, *Part II.*, p. 189.]

It having become necessary to remove the North Bridge at Colchester, in order to erect on the site one more suited to the increase of traffic, arising from its being the only thoroughfare to and from the town to the Eastern Counties Railway Station, upon removing the north abutment (built scarcely seventy years ago), it was found to be placed between the foundation of a wall of Roman character, which appeared to have been divided purposely for the reception of it. Under this foundation were discovered several earthen urns, apparently Roman, some of which fell to pieces upon exposure to the air; two only were got out whole, one of them made of red, and the other of a coarse black earth. The latter was inverted on a Roman tile about 8 inches square, and is of a form rarely met with here.

In another part of the town some workmen, employed to remove a quantity of earth preparatory to the erection of a building, dis-

covered a week or so ago several Roman urns, one of which, about 18 inches high, fortunately was got out whole, and contained a deposit by cremation, the mouth being covered by the bottom of another urn. At the same time a smaller one was discovered, used, probably, for a drinking cup; this the workmen broke accidentally. It is formed of a whitish earth, and covered with a black composition resembling some that came from Pompeii.

Another was dug up at the same place of rather a curious shape, about 6 inches high, indented, it is supposed, to hold it; this is covered with a light brown glaze. There was found at the same time an earthen lamp, an ivory pin, a ribbed blue bead, and various fragments of glass and earthen vessels, in particular of the Samian ware, bushels of which are found in this town.

A short time ago a man, ploughing in a field on the common land at the rear of Beverly Lodge, turned up a small brass figure of Jupiter, about 4 inches high. W.

[1848, *Part II.*, p. 633.]

At Colchester, in digging for gravel and preparing the ground for planting at West Lodge, opposite St. Mary's Terrace, Lexden Road, upwards of twenty cinerary urns have been exhumed, nearly all of which were filled with incinerated bones and earth. With one exception they are of dark baked earth, and of various sizes, from the capacity of a quart to that of two gallons. Some of them were broken so much as to render all attempts to restore them ineffectual; others are only partially injured, and six or seven are perfect. The solitary exception in colour among the urns is one of peculiar shape also, with handles of a light red ware. Over one of the black urns was a flat cover of light red ware, and the bones thus protected were perfectly dry and clean. Another urn was covered with a shallow vessel of the same material. Close by one small urn were found two bottles, of different size, shape, and colour. The contents of several of the urns have been examined, but eight or ten remain as found. In addition to these a small tomb, consisting of four large thick tiles or bricks, set on edge, was found; its contents were bone-ashes and some fragments of thick glass. Near this was a flue of one brick, the exterior ornamented with scroll-work; also a small drinking-cup; and, at another part of the ground, the remains of a lamp-stand, of lead. The whole are intended for the Colchester Museum, and will form an interesting addition to its local antiquities.

[1854, *Part I.*, pp. 70, 71.]

Mr. C. Roach Smith, having recently visited Colchester, has addressed a letter to the *Essex Standard*, from which we make the following extracts:

"When I was last at Colchester I saw a large inscribed stone



(found on the site of the Roman cemetery at West Lodge) which had obviously formed part of the face of a sepulchral monument of considerable dimensions, such as we have found fragments of contiguous to the site of the wall of Roman London, and such as have been discovered more plentifully in France and in other parts of the Continent. To one of these superior tombs it is probable the Sphinx now in the Hospital (engraved in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for February, 1822, p. 107) appertained. [See Note 11.] This is the opinion of one of your most zealous antiquaries, the Rev. H. Jenkins, and I quite agree with him. So late as last July I saw a figure of a sphinx in stone at Lillebonne, on the Seine, which had been found with many other sculptures, chiefly of a sepulchral kind; it is, however, inferior in workmanship to that at Colchester. The stone at West Lodge induced a hope that others would be found to complete, at least, the inscription. This anticipation has not yet been realized. The recent discoveries are mostly very similar to those made in former years. There is, however, an interesting exception, on which I offer a few remarks. It is that of an urn ornamented with figures, over some of which are inscriptions.

"This urn is about 9 inches in height, and about 6 inches in diameter at the mouth. It is filled with burnt human bones, which were carefully covered with an inverted vessel of the class known to archæologists by the term *mortaria*. Several other vessels stood around the urn. On one side of it are representations of stags, a hare, and a dog in chase. The other contains two different groups, one of which is composed of two men and a bear; the second of two gladiators. The first of these is evidently intended to represent a sport very closely allied to the modern pastime of dancing bears. The chief actor in the scene bears a concave buckler on his left arm, and holds in his right hand a whip with a long throng, which falls over the head of the animal, the distended jaws of which and upturned head seem to show it is not altogether reconciled to its situation. The other of the keepers, who is almost naked, approaches it with a stick in each hand to render assistance to his companion. Over the head of the man with the shield and whip is inscribed SECUNDVS MARIO.

"The second compartment is occupied by a scene between two gladiators—a *secutor* and a *retiarius*. The latter has been vanquished; he has dropped his trident, and is in the attitude of imploring mercy of the spectators. The former, armed with an helmet, oblong shield, and a sword, is advancing upon his conquered adversary to strike the final blow. The costume of the combatants is in correct keeping with the well-known equipments of the classes of gladiators to which they belong; and the details, worked with as much care as the material would admit, are evidently not wanting in fidelity. On the line of the head of the *secutor* is inscribed MEMN.N.SAC. VIIII.; the

first word of which may be *Memnius* or *Memnon*. Should the letter A be an error for E (which is not unlikely), there can be no difficulty in interpreting the N.SAC. to signify that this gladiator belonged to the *numerus* or band *secutores*; and the numerals may be supposed to indicate that he had previously triumphed nine times. The defeated combatant bears above his head VALENTINV. LEGIONIS.XXX.—*Valentinus of the 30th Legion*.

“The inscriptions are cut with the point of a style, or some sharp instrument, and are therefore posterior in date to the manufacture of the urn. They would seem to have been so placed by the owner, who may merely have humoured his fancy in thus applying the names of some popular persons who assisted in the games of the theatre of the town where he resided. That this town was Camulodunum is possible; and although the 30th Legion was quartered in Germany, and not in Britain, Valentinus may have left and settled in the latter province.

“The urn belongs to that peculiar kind of pottery which we know for certain was manufactured on the banks of the Nen, in Northamptonshire. It is very rarely met with decorated with human figures, or with other ornaments than foliage and animals; and in the latter case its manufacture does not appear to have been restricted to Britain, as it has been found in abundance in Flanders, and I have also seen specimens in France. With figures of men and deities I have as yet seen no examples but such as have been found in England. All the ornaments on this ware appear to have been laid on after the vessels were formed, in what is technically called *slip*, the application of which was performed with much skill, and, considering the material and the process, the figures are usually very spirited and characteristic.

“May I venture, sir, to take this opportunity of calling the attention of the Town Council of Colchester to the general state of the more important ancient remains which render your town so attractive to the antiquary and to the historian? Some of them—for instance, the Town Walls and the Castle, might be increased in interest by excavations judiciously conducted. A small grant of money, placed under the control of one or two of the many active and intelligent antiquaries of the locality, could but be productive of discoveries, which, while they would especially gratify the archæologist, would doubtless be advantageous to the town at large, and increase its prosperity.”

[1861, *Part I.*, p. 311.]

Mr. Josias Bryant informs us that towards the close of last year two Roman sepulchral interments were discovered on a portion of Mr. John Taylor's property, where so many similar remains have been disinterred during the last ten or fifteen years. They were

formed each of four large tiles placed upright, and a fifth placed upon the top as a cover. In one was a lamp, a glass vessel full of burnt bones, an *unguentarium*, and two or three common clay urns (one inverted), all filled with calcined bones. The other tile-grave was filled with earth and burnt bones. Just outside one of these little vaults were two very large urns, of a red colour, much like the Samian ware, but coarser, of a duller red, and without glaze.

[1866, *Part II.*, p. 336.]

The extensive Roman cemetery on the sides of the London road continues, from time to time, to yield objects of interest and novelty. The Rev. J. H. Pollexfen states that very recently Mr. G. Joslin dug up in his grounds at the top of the Beverley Road a sepulchral deposit consisting of terra-cotta statuettes, glass vessels, pottery, and coins. The clay figures are moulded in the forms of hares, pigs, deer, etc.; the coins, thirty in number, are exclusively of Agrippa and Claudius, so it may be inferred that this interment was of comparatively early date. Among the remains were pieces of carved bone and other indications of an ornamented box, or coffer, in which the more precious objects had been enclosed.

#### EAST HAM.

[1864, *Part I.*, pp. 91, 92.]

In consequence of a communication kindly made to the Essex Archæological Society by the Rev. E. F. Boyle, Vicar of East Ham, that in the course of the construction of the great high-level sewer some interesting Roman sepulchral remains had been brought to light in his parish, I at once proceeded to the site, and have thought that a brief notice of the discoveries may be worthy of record in the pages of the *Gentleman's Magazine*.

A portion of the remains, comprising a large and massive stone sarcophagus and two leaden coffins, at the period of my visit had been removed to the church. The sarcophagus, perfectly plain, 6 ft. 9 in. in length by 2 ft. 1 in. wide, is covered by a heavy coped lid; it contained two skeletons placed side by side, their heads disposed at opposite ends. The remains are those of adults, and, from the condition of the teeth, apparently not more than forty-five years of age. Unfortunately the workmen had disarranged them, as well as the skeleton of a youth contained in the smaller of the two leaden coffins which they had deposited within the sarcophagus. The lid of this coffin was missing. The third coffin, 4 ft. 10 in. long, contained the skeleton of a young person which had not been disturbed; this, owing to partial decay, was nearly filled with earth. The lid, ornamented with a beaded pattern and scallop shells, and



lapping over the sides of the coffin, is of similar character to those engraved in Mr. C. Roach Smith's "*Collectanea Antiqua*," vol. iii., pl. xiv., figs. 1 and 3, and to another found in Bethnal Green two years since, described by Mr. H. W. Rolfe in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, except that the pattern is differently disposed. Near these coffins were found several urns, containing burnt bones, and two skeletons which had evidently been enclosed in wooden coffins, facts which prove incontestably that the custom of interring the body entire was in use among the Romans contemporaneously with cremation and urn burial.

The site whence these remains have been exhumed is about eight or nine hundred yards westward of the church, at the foot of the upland just bordering upon the East Ham marshes, where an extensive excavation has been made for the purpose of obtaining ballast for the sewer works now in progress across the marsh towards Barking, and within some three miles of the great Roman entrenchment at Uphall, between the latter parish and Ilford. The coffins all lay north and south, the lid of the sarcophagus within 3 ft. of the surface, the leaden coffins within 18 inches. They were deposited in a row, not many feet apart, and from their position and arrangement I am induced to believe that in all probability the upper part of the excavation has just touched the southern verge of a cemetery of perhaps considerable extent. Stone sarcophagi and leaden coffins manifestly denote position and wealth, as such materials must have been costly, especially in this part of the kingdom; while the existence of such cemeteries proves the great population of Roman Britain, for we find them everywhere, not only near towns, but in places sparingly populated, if populated at all. Many must have been long since destroyed, and many probably remain for future accidents such as this to bring to light.

The subject of Roman interments in sarcophagi and leaden coffins has been so amply and ably treated by Mr. C. Roach Smith in his "*Collectanea Antiqua*," vol. iii., p. 45 *et seq.*, with an additional notice of Roman sepulchral remains found at Petham, Kent, in vol. iv., p. 173, of the same work, that a more detailed description of those at East Ham would be superfluous on the present occasion, beyond stating their very exact conformity with the numerous examples cited by Mr. Smith, which comprise most of the known discoveries of Roman leaden coffins in England and France, and the additional corroboration they afford of the accuracy of his conclusions. I ought, however, specially to refer to the leaden coffin found on the site of the Roman burial-place at Stratford-le-Bow in 1844, described by the same author in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxxi., p. 308, where sepulchral remains were found in considerable quantities, because the two cemeteries are within four miles of each other. Accurate drawings have been made of the coffins, etc., exhumed at East Ham,

by the accomplished draughtsman Mr. A. F. Sprague, for publication in the Journal of the Essex Archæological Society.

I am, etc. H. W. KING.

P.S. Since my visit to East Ham I have been informed that two more leaden coffins have been disinterred.

#### HAZELEIGH.

[1838, *Part II.*, p. 433.]

I send you an extract from the *Chelmsford Chronicle* :

"*Ancient Remains.*—On the 2nd April some labourers, whilst land-ditching in the middle of a field of twenty-five acres, upon Jenkin's farm in the parish of Hazeleigh, in this county, and in the occupation of Mr. Hart, of Woodham Mortimer Hall, discovered a stone coffin, about 4 feet from the surface. Impressed with a notion that it contained hidden treasure, they hastened to satisfy their curiosity by breaking the lid, but to their mortification it was found to contain the remains of a human body, which had in all probability been interred in it centuries ago. Mr. Hart subsequently examined it, and found the skull and other parts of the skeleton; the coffin or box was 4 inches thick, and about 6 feet 9 inches long."

I was informed that the lid of the coffin was 2 feet below the surface of the earth. The coffin was placed east and west, containing a female skeleton.

I have examined the stone coffin, which is of shell limestone, but the bones, etc., have disappeared, and no urns, but some small fragments were found outside, which from their forms are undoubtedly Roman. I send you a section of the coffin, showing the shape of the lid.

In the map of the Roman Roads by Andrews, 1797, I find a road from the neighbourhood of Widford, through Great Baddow, Danbury, and Woodham Mortimer to Maldon, commanding extensive views towards the north and south. From the high hill of Danbury signals could be seen from Stock, Billericay, Langdon Hill, etc. An ancient British coin, supposed to be of Boadicea, was found at Woodham Walter.

Some labourers in the employ of Mr. Joslin Bulwer, of Ramsden Bell House, whilst mole-ploughing in Stoney Hills Field, upon Woolshots farm, in that parish, about 2 feet from the surface, lately found a stone coffin, resembling the former, excepting that, in the absence of a lid, this appeared to have been arched over with flints. It contained the skull and other bones of a skeleton, with several teeth. A piece of lead was torn up by the plough near the spot, but no inscription was visible. The singular circumstance of two discoveries of the kind has excited an interest in the respective neighbourhoods, and has induced a great many persons to visit the spots, for the purpose of inspecting them.

J. A. R.

## NORTH OCKENDEN.

[1859, *Part I.*, p. 174.]

During the last month a large number of labourers have been employed in trenching some fields belonging to Holme Farm, situate about a mile and a half west of North Ockenden. In the course of their operations they found a number of beds of dark soil, about 18 inches in depth, and at about 1 foot from the surface, in which were deposited a large quantity of bones, supposed at first to be human, together with fragments of pottery and pieces of charcoal. It was the general opinion of the workmen that the field was once the scene of a great battle, and this opinion is supported by some local traditions. One thing, however, is certain, viz., that the scene of their labours is the site of a Roman burial-ground, extending over a space of about 16 acres, but whether it marks the battlefield of one of those many great struggles which took place in this county between the Britons and Romans, or whether it denotes the peaceful cemetery of a Roman station, it is perhaps not very easy to determine. The little evidence, however, which the plough and the harrow have left behind, seems in favour of the latter. The regular and almost equidistant arrangement of the graves, and the large quantity of fragments of cinerary urns found in nearly all of them, seem to indicate rather the orderly interment of a cemetery than the hasty burial of a battlefield. The graves are at once discernible from the surrounding soil, the natural soil being a yellow clay, while the earth of the graves is nearly black. They vary in size from about 10 to 40 feet in circumference; it is impossible with any accuracy to trace their original form, but they appear for the most part to have been circular; one, however, is much larger than the rest, and of a different form; it is about 60 feet in length by about 20 in width. The fragments of pottery vary very much in character, some being of the very rudest workmanship, while others have been more carefully manufactured; a few very small pieces of Samian ware have also been found. The bones are all of different animals—of the horse, the deer, etc., but these have all been so broken by the plough as almost to render identification impossible. No coins nor any fragments of metal have as yet been discovered. An adjoining field is still called Church Field, which, as it contains no foundation of any building, probably received its name from the multitude of barrows or burial mounds which must formerly have crowded the surrounding locality.—*Essex Herald*.

## RIVENHALL.

[1847, *Part I.*, p. 185.]

Mr. Jonathan Hutley has lately been extensively drawing a pasture field contiguous to the churchyard, and almost in every part some interesting remains are discovered. A tessellated pavement of several



feet in width was cut through, the bricks of which it is composed being for the most part about an inch square; tiles of a much larger size and curiously marked have been found in abundance, also the foundation of a building in which is used the common square Roman tile; and lastly a small brass coin of the Emperor Probus (A.D. 275—282). It is not improbable that many of the tiles, judging from their form and from the position in which they were found, may have been used for the very purpose in which Mr. Hutley is engaged.

#### WITHAM RIVER.

[1826, *Part II.*, p. 163.]

Besides a handsome shield which was lately discovered in the bed of the Witham, in Essex, a vast number of swords and other antique remains have come to light. A short stabbing sword, evidently Roman, has an inscription upon the blade which will afford a subject for the ingenuity of the learned in antiquarian lore. The sword is a straight two-edged blade, with a long tapering point along the rib or centre line of the blade; on a surface somewhat flatted are letters, which, corroding in the metal, are legible enough to be discerned, and as follows, reading from the hilt to the point: NDKOKCHINDNCHT-KORYD (*sic*). All the letters resemble the ordinary Roman capitals in present use, except the eighth, which is M reversed.

#### Gloucestershire.

##### CHEDWORTH.

[1865, *Part II.*, pp. 302, 303.]

I am indebted to Mr. Lawrence and to Mr. Farrer for an introduction to this villa; one, in some respects the most interesting, of those discovered in Gloucestershire, and they are very many, some being highly instructive. It is situate on the property of Lord Eldon, and for some time has been in process of excavation under the direction of Mr. Farrer, whose attention was drawn to the existence of subterranean constructions by the *débris* thrown out from the burrowing of rabbits. As at Silchester, the surrounding country is now sparsely populated. The district of Chedworth is hilly and woody, with rich meadows interspersed. Where the villa is, the hills form a kind of imperfect amphitheatre, and are covered with wood, which had extended over the villa itself, some of the trees of large size growing upon the walls and rooting into them. The hill upon the slopes of which the villa was built is called Hucknell, or Hulcnell Hill, and the gentler slope in front, a cultivated field, is called Falcombe. Proceeding up the centre of the field, you face the long line of the principal rooms of the villa, constructed upon a wide terrace formed by levelling the lower part of the hill. The rooms

are continued upon a similar terrace on the hill on the right ; they are very numerous, being, I should think, upwards of thirty, and possibly forty or more. The front ranges of rooms are divided by a terrace, in which columns were rather largely used ; and flights of steps in a very perfect state lead from the lower to the upper rooms. Two of the apartments have floorings of tessellated work of a superior kind ; and others had also been paved in a similar manner ; the walls on the inside had been plastered and painted, but in one only did I notice any considerable portion remaining.

Hypocausts were extensively used ; and their construction, as well as the arrangement of the flue-tiles up the interior of the walls, can be well studied on account of the general excellent state of preservation of the villa. There is a suite of baths supplied by water from an octagonal stone reservoir, into which runs a spring out of the hill ; the room, in the centre of which is this reservoir, was open towards the interior, the roof being supported by columns. Although I have said the villa is in an excellent state of preservation, I do not mean to say its remote situation has sheltered it from the hands of the destroyer : probably it was used as a quarry, as most of the Roman villas were. The feet of two statues have been found, but not the bodies. An altar has recently been dug up at the back of the reservoir, but, unfortunately, like others occasionally discovered elsewhere, it seems to be uninscribed. On the right side of the villa, in the hill, was the lime-kiln. This is in a good state of preservation ; and in it when opened was a considerable quantity of lime. The mortar of the walls, it may be observed, is inferior to what we generally find in Roman buildings ; it contains an unusual proportion of sand.

C. ROACH SMITH.

#### CIRENCESTER.

[1835, *Part II.*, p. 302.]

A few weeks since, as some workmen were digging for the foundation of a house at a place called Watermoor, half a mile on the south side of the town of Cirencester, about 50 yards outside of the site of the old Roman wall, and close to the Irmine Street way, they discovered, at about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the surface, a stone lying flat in the earth, on which is, as near as it can be deciphered, the following inscription : [Huebner, p. 30]

DANNICVS . EQES . AIAE  
 INDIAN . TVR . ALBANI  
 STIP . XVI . CIVES . RAVR  
 CVR . FVLVIVS NATALIS IP [11]  
 FLAVIVS . BITVCVS ER . TESTAME  
 11[11]SE

The stone is about 7 feet high and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  wide, and contains at the top, cut very deeply into it, the figure of a warrior on horseback, spearing a man, who is lying on the ground. Near the head of the

stone was found an urn of dark-coloured pottery, without any ornament or inscription, containing fragments of burnt bones; and lying upon it, but apparently unconnected with it, was a human skeleton, several of which were also discovered near the spot. In the immediate neighbourhood have been found, at different times, coins and other antiquities.

Yours, etc. S.

[1836, *Part I.*, p. 296.]

Another sepulchral monument to a Roman knight, resembling that described in our September number, p. 302, has been found at the same place, Watermoor, near Cirencester. On the 22nd January the workmen digging the foundation of some houses turned up a stone, about a foot below the surface, having the figure of a horseman, with his spear and shield, the horse trampling a man under his feet. The sculpture is in very bold relief, and the inscription as follows, as nearly as it can be deciphered: [Huebner, p. 30]

SEXTUS VALE  
RIVS GENALIS  
EQUES ALAE · TR · HAEC  
CIVIS FRISIAUS TUR  
GENIALIS AI XXXX—XX  
H.S.E. EF. C.

It is in the possession of Mr. Paish, Duke of York Inn, Cirencester.

[1837, *Part I.*, pp. 586-588.]

It becomes my agreeable duty to thank you for your kindness, in having procured for me copies of the very interesting sepulchral monuments found at Watermore, near Cirencester, in 1835 and 1836; and I beg to avail myself of the opportunity to send you a few remarks, which may not perhaps be considered unfit to accompany the engravings of the same, which I hear you intend publishing in your valuable magazine.

Though the inscription upon the first of these monuments has been given in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for September, 1835, p. 302, it will be as well to repeat it here, because some alteration in the interpretation of it offered by your correspondent will, perhaps, on inquiry, appear desirable: [Huebner, p. 30]

DANNICVS . EQES . ALAE  
INDIAN . TVR . ALBANI .  
STIP . XVI . CIVES . RAVR  
CVR . FVLVIVS . NATALIS . IL  
FL....AVS . BITVCVS . ER . TESTAME ,  
H . S . E .

“Dannicus, eques Alæ Indianæ, turmæ Albani, Stipendiorum sedecim, civis Rauricus; curaverunt Fulvius Natalis il [leg. et?] Flavius Bitucus, heredes testamentarii. Hic situs est”—*i.e.* :



“Dannicus, a horseman of the Indian wing, of the troop of Albanus, who had served sixteen years; a citizen of Rauricum. By the care of Fulvius Natalis and Fulvius Bitucus, the heirs of his last will. He is buried here.”

I read Dannicus instead of Decius Annicus, because it appears from inscriptions that the Gauls generally had but one name; even under the dominion of the Romans. We have an instance of it in the 3rd of the Watermore Inscriptions, where mention is made of Philus, the son of Cassavus. The name of Dannicus, as far as I have been able to ascertain, is not found on any other monument; but we know those of C. Dannicus, of Dannicius Alpinus, of Danius Minuso, and that of Dannus, the son of Marus; this last occurs on a monument found at Nismes, in France.

The *ala Indiana* (Indian wing) does not seem to be mentioned on any other monument found in England, but it occurs in inscriptions found near Cologne, at Maintz, and near Mannheim; which would lead to the inference that this division of the Roman auxiliaries was stationed some time in Gallia, and apparently went over to England, to take part in the expeditions of the Romans into that island. The existence of the *turma Albani* of the Indian wing, recorded by this monument, was not hitherto known; another, viz., the *turma Balbi*, is mentioned on the inscription found near Cologne.

The second inscription is as follows: [Huebner, p. 30]

SEXTVS . VALE  
RIVS . GENALIS  
EQES . ALAE . TR . HAEC  
CIVIS . FRISIAVS . TVR  
GENIALIS . AI . XXXX XX  
H . S . E . E . F . C .

“Sextus Valerius Genialis, eques alæ Thracum (or Thracum Herculanæ?), civis Frisiaus (for Frisius), turmæ Genialis. Annos (vixit) quadraginta (militavit) viginti. Hic situs est, heres fieri curavit”—*i.e.*:

“Sextus Valerius Genialis, a horseman of the Thracian wing, a citizen of Frisia, of the troop (or the squadron) of Genialis. (He lived) forty years, (and served) twenty. He is buried here, (and) his heir erected this (monument).”

The propriety of most of the corrections I have here ventured to introduce will be readily admitted; but the conclusion of the third line is not so certain. The *ala III Thracum* occurs on different inscriptions, and one of them even mentions the name of a Valerius, who was a native of Gallia, and a commander of that wing; but it was stationed in Syria, and all the monuments relating to it were discovered in the southern parts of Europe. The *ala Thracum Herculanæ* is known from an inscription on the base of a statue found at Vaisons, in France, and certainly the six last letters of the

third line of the inscription before us would allow the correction THR . HERC ; but the circumstance of another sepulchral monument having been found in Shropshire (see Camden's "Britannia," ii., p. 413), where mention is made of a horseman of the *Cohors Thracum*, induces me to read here also EQ(U)ES . ALAE . THRAC(UM).

The deceased, Sextus Valerius Genialis, was a native of Friesland ; and it is rendered probable by this inscription that some soldiers of that nation served among the auxiliary troops which followed the Romans into Britain ; without, however, constituting a separate part of their army, like their neighbours the Batavi, and the Tungri ; for the cohorts of those nations are mentioned by Tacitus ("Hist.," iv. 12, and "Agric.," cap. 36), as having contributed more than any other part of the Roman army to one of the most important victories gained by Agricola ; and a great number of inscriptions found in different parts of Great Britain, but chiefly in Cumberland and Northumberland, prove the assertion of Tacitus to be true.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, none of the ancient authors record the fact of the Frisians having served in the Roman army in England. From the other sepulchral inscriptions of individuals of the same nation, found in Italy, we learn that they were selected by the Emperor Nero and his successors to serve as the Imperial private body-guard. Lysons, in his "*Reliquiæ Britannico-Romanæ*," i., pl. 12, has published a fragment of an altar found at Binchester, in the Bishoprick of Durham, on which we read "that Amandus, a citizen of Frisia, EX . C(IVITATE) FRIS(IORUM), discharged his vow to Vinovia," the personification and ancient name of the place where the monument was erected ; but there is no proof that this Amandus belonged to the Roman army.

The inscription upon the third monument, found at Watermore the 1st July, 1836, and which is now published for the first time, is this : [Huebner, p. 30]

PHILVS . CA  
SSAVI . FILI  
CIVIS . S . EQV .  
ANN . XXXXV .  
H . SE

"Philus Cassavi filius, civis Sequanus, (vixit) annos quadraginta quinque. Hic situs est"—*i.e.* :

"Philus, the son of Cassavus, a citizen of the Sequani, five-and-forty years old, is buried here."

The deceased was probably one of the *negotiatores*, or merchants, who followed the Roman army, and established themselves in their camps and other military stations : either for the purpose of supplying the soldiers with provisions and other necessaries, or of taking advantage of the more constant and easy communication opened at every military establishment, which at the same time might be

regarded in the light of an extensive market. The Sequani were the neighbours of the Rauraci, and lived in the environs of Lyons, in France, as is proved by different inscriptions found near that place, and at St. Pierre Mont-Jou, in Switzerland; but above all, by one published by Gruter, in his "Corp. Inscr.," p. dcxlix. 7, in which occurs the name of Julius Poppilius, the Sequanian, a citizen of Lugdunum, or Lyons.

C. LEEMANS.

[1838, *Part II.*, p. 180.]

On the 22nd of last June some labourers in Mr. Gregory's extensive nursery discovered, about a foot below the surface of the ground, two large and finely-sculptured stones, which had evidently formed parts of two capitals of the Corinthian order. One of them, with the abacus, is a freestone, of greyish colour, forming the lower part of a capital, and exhibiting the usual tiers of acanthus leaves boldly sculptured, eight in each tier, and above them, at the top of the stone, indications of hands and breasts of a human figure. The diameter of this stone at the bottom is 2 feet, and its height 2 feet 2 inches. The other stone is a cross-grained shell-limestone, 1 foot 9 inches high, in form of the abacus or top of another capital. The diagonal of the top from corner to corner is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and it is therefore probable that it was supported on a shaft more than 2 feet in diameter and about 22 feet high. The four corners are a little bevelled downwards from the horizontal top, so as to leave a circular bearing. In the centre of each of the four concave sides of the abacus is the upper part of a human figure briefly described below. This stone is now fixed upon the other, which is placed upon a plain pedestal in front of Mr. Gregory's residence. On its north side is a face, with smooth forehead, and with drapery hanging across the breast from a button on each shoulder; the hair is parted on the forehead and curled close, and a sort of flat cap is close over the hair, and ornamented at each temple. A semicircular flat object appears in front of the left shoulder. The figure on the east side is supposed to be Bacchus as a beardless youth, holding a bunch of grapes with the right hand over his right shoulder, and having a little below the shoulder a bracelet round the naked arm. A bunch of grapes also appears over the left shoulder, besides the handle of some instrument or top of a sceptre. The drapery of this figure hangs from the left shoulder. The male figure on the south side supports a curved horn with his right hand in supination; the small end, which is formed like the head of some animal with ears, is placed to the right corner of the mouth, which is partly open, and the large end of the horn is shown in perspective. The face has an ample beard and a low forehead, with deep horizontal furrows. The male figure on the west side holds in his left hand an olive branch, the hand being on a level with the shoulder. Above the right shoulder



appears a bipennis, or double battle-axe, crescent-shaped, the handle of which descends obliquely in front of the shoulder; the face is likewise amply supplied with beard and with moustachios, and has great expression. The length of these bearded faces is 9, and the greatest breadth 6 inches. Every one of the heads has an ornament nearly as wide as the face in place of a crown, with the top on a level with the upper surface of the abacus. Mr. Gregory deserves great praise for his taste and care in preserving these and other curious antiquities.

[1849, *Part II.*, pp. 357-360.]

. . . . The pavement which is represented in our plate was discovered early in August by some workmen digging to form a drain or sewer. It lay from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 feet below the surface of the road; the sides of the square running parallel or at right angles to the present line of the street by intersecting it diagonally. That side of the pavement which is most imperfect approached the footway in front of the *Standard* printing-office; the opposite corner extended towards the centre of the road. About a dozen yards higher up the street the excavators had uncovered a wide border of a running pattern, but as the device was considered inferior to the specimens previously brought to light, they did not extend their research beyond the limits of the sewer.

The arrangement and designs of the pavement will be seen by reference to the plate. The geometrical patterns will be familiar to those acquainted with mosaic pavements. In the sea-leopard and the sea-dragon, each pursuing fish, the same idea is continued which suggested the pavement published by Mr. Lysons. The centre picture represents a hunting scene on dry land, but the object of the chase is broken out. The heads above are those of sea-gods, a favourite ornament of pavements, the beard often terminating in fish. In the upper corner is a Medusa's head. The colours employed are black, red, yellow, dark-brown, and white. As it was impossible to preserve the pavement in its existing situation, it was determined to remove it in such portions as should be found practicable, and re-lay it in some spot to be afterwards determined upon, it being understood that Lord Bathurst would erect a suitable building to shelter it. The work of removal was safely accomplished in about ten days. An engraving in the *Illustrated London News* of the 8th September gives a good idea of the process.

The tessellæ were found to rest on a bed of terras or concrete about 6 inches thick, of a brick-red colour. This was supported by short pillars or blocks, also of concrete, except in one or two instances where a stone, evidently chiselled for some other purpose, and therefore the fragment probably of some more ancient building, had been used instead. Each pillar of concrete was crowned by a tile, and a second tile lay across from pillar to pillar, thus forming a complete bearing for the floor above.

Near one corner of the pavement, and at the same depth, were found two hollow fire-bricks, standing on slabs of the same material. One is quite sound, the other is broken off at the top. The complete one is about 2 feet high ; it is hollow throughout, and has two holes in each side. It is asserted that charcoal was discovered near them. A portion of a large earthen jar was turned up, and also the base of a pillar about a foot in diameter.

It being apparent that the isolated specimens of tessellated flooring were portions of one villa, the explorers were tempted to uncover the ground on either side, and in both instances with success. On the side towards the printing-office was found some bordering of chequered work, evidently belonging to a room adjoining the one previously laid open. On the opposite side a pavement was exposed of still larger dimensions. It is feared, however, that nearly half of it is lost, as it must evidently have extended beyond the walls of the houses now standing. What we have, however, is sufficient to show that this pavement was of a very superior character. It consisted originally of nine circles, each bordered by the frequent convoluted or cable ornament. Of these circles four are visible, and some progress has been made in clearing the central one. In one is Actæon attacked by his dogs. The two adjoining circles have heads of Ceres and Flora, very finely executed ; and next to Ceres is Silenus on an ass. The intervals between the circles would, of course, be lozenge-shaped figures, and of these two may be seen. In one is a head of Medusa, and in the other a full-length naked figure, probably a Bacchante.

[1850, *Part I.*, pp. 25, 26.]

The first pavement, which was found in 1849, and which was engraved in our October magazine, is one of considerable beauty and some singularity of design, whilst the second pavement, found in 1849, which we now exhibit to our readers, has, we think, scarcely been surpassed in beauty of execution by any previously discovered in this country. The room containing it is the sixth that has been traced belonging to the same building ; it measures from wall to wall about 25 feet, 4 feet on each side being occupied by borders of various patterns and widths. Of these borders the inner one is a cable border, composed of green and white tesserae, about 6 inches wide, enclosing a square of nearly 17 feet. The proportions of the room were thus considerably larger than ordinary. At a distance of 10 inches from the outside of the green border is the common red-buff-and-white cable, from which the more elaborate designs commence. The centre contained three rows of circles each way, making nine in the whole, each nearly 5 feet diameter. The subjects of two of them, namely, Silenus on his ass and Actæon attacked by his dogs, are obvious. The four corner medallions (of which one is lost) appear to have been intended for the Seasons, though the two first found were assigned to Ceres and Flora.

Our smaller plate represents in its proper colours the medallion assigned to Spring, the position of which is slightly shown towards the upper margin of the larger engraving. Below is a sketch of the substructure. It was more carefully executed than that beneath the other pavement which was shown in our October number. The fragments of pillars must have belonged to some former building. The hollow bricks with holes through them, nearly like those we before figured, seem to have been designed to give free passage to the heated air, though the necessity for making them of that form is not obvious, since the intervals between the pillars would afford sufficient space for that purpose. Neither was the whole of the pavement formed over this hypocaust; part of it rested on a solid foundation. The wall shown to the right, in which is a brick arch, appears to have been the outer wall of the house, as the earth was opened beyond, but no further constructions found.

## GLOUCESTER.

[1806, *Part II.*, pp. 869, 870.]

The workmen employed in digging the foundation for the new Blue Coat Hospital at Gloucester lately discovered, about 6 feet below the surface of the earth, the remains of a very curious tessellated Roman pavement, 30 feet long and 20 wide, divided into compartments, enriched with a great variety of scrolls, frets, and other architectural ornaments, and having a wreathed or braided border. The colours are white, red, bluish gray, and pale and dark brown. The tesserae are mostly cubes of different sizes, from one-half to three-quarters of an inch; some are triangular, and of various other shapes. The cement on which the pavement is laid is about an inch thick, and appears to be composed of sand, pounded brick, and lime, forming together a very hard substance. The interstices are filled up with cement, so hard that it is even more difficult to break than the tesserae themselves. The white and pale tesserae appear to be of hard calcareous stone, and bear a good polish; the red are of a fine sort of brick; the bluish grey are of a hard argillaceous stone, found in many parts of Gloucestershire, and called blue lias; and the dark brown appear to be of the granite found at St. Vincent's rocks, near Bristol.

[An identical communication was printed in 1841, *Part II.*, p. 190.]

[1843, *Part II.*, p. 420.]

A beautiful tessellated pavement has been discovered in the cellar of the Oxbody Inn, Mitre Street, Gloucester, about 8 feet below the level of the street.

[1846, *Part II.*, p. 517.]

In excavating for the foundation of a gasometer, about to be erected in Quay Street, Gloucester, a discovery of considerable local interest



has been made. At a depth of about 18 feet from the surface, nearly on a level with the present bed of the Severn, from which it is not less than 150 feet distant, the workmen came upon a large quantity of piles, resting upon which were massive blocks of stone well squared and jointed, of which a continuous line appears to be carried parallel with the course of the river. The stones are from Dean Forest. The general opinion is that they formed part of the quay-wall in the time of the Romans, as they are found at about the same depth as the other Roman remains which have been from time to time discovered in their vicinity. The mud in which the piles are embedded is of exactly the same character as that which the dredging machines are now throwing up from the bed of the river, and has evidently been formed under similar circumstances.

[1854, *Part I.*, pp. 486, 487.]

The excavations for the sewerage, though extensive in their nature and carried to a very great depth, have not brought any particularly new facts to light, but served principally to confirm what we already know and have conjectured about the ancient state of the city; and this may be accounted for by the trenches having as yet been only made up the centres of the streets, consequently missing the pavements, etc., that might be found under the present houses; for, except in one instance, it has been invariably ascertained that Glevum corresponded in its main plan with modern Gloucester. As yet the works have not approached the centre of the city. When they do we hope to find more relics of the past. In the Northgate Street, for the space of about 300 yards, the old Roman road was discovered, about 10 feet 6 inches below the surface. It was composed of stones of irregular shape, bedded in cement or very fine mortar, on a layer of concrete; and so hard and complete was its structure that the workmen were obliged to use great exertions to break it with their pick-axes. Strangely enough, four large squared planks of charred wood were found near a place by which the river Twiver formerly crossed the street, placed transversely and at equal distances. The depth at which they occurred evinces their antiquity; and their accurate adjustment also shows that they must have been placed in their position for some definite purpose. I account for it thus: that the neighbourhood of the stream was marshy, and that the planks may have been used as a sort of bond for keeping the surface of the road in an even state.

Several Roman remains were found in Worcester Street and in Northgate Street; amongst others, fragments of an enormous vase, the top, bottom, and two handles of which are alone preserved. It seemed to be a large water ewer. Several other smaller fragments of pottery, etc., were found *under* the surface of the road, thus showing that they were of earlier date.

The foundations of the North Gate gave considerable trouble to the workmen, for they were like solid rock, and were very deep and extensive. At the site of the lower North Gate the walls were found entire, and the whole line of excavation, in a transverse direction, was thickly sown with skulls and human bones; and this is not to be wondered at when we consider the hot skirmishing which took place on that side of the city during the siege.

There is one important fact I wish to notice before I conclude, and that is the difference between the ancient and present level of the city of Gloucester. Roman remains are found generally 10, sometimes 15 feet below the modern surface. The floor of St. Nicholas's Church is at least 6 feet; and an encaustic floor lately found was in a still lower position with regard to the river. The stones and ring, which evidently formed part of the Roman quay, were said to be 20 feet below the surface, but this I think exaggerated. Nevertheless, they were far below the present level of the river at high water. Now I am inclined to think that all these facts show that the bed of the river has gradually been filling up to an extent we can hardly calculate, and that the high floods, which for the last hundred years have annually submerged the country adjoining the river, are comparatively of modern occurrence. The fact of the Abbey Church having been rebuilt on a site farther from the river than that on which it originally stood shows that, in the time of the Saxons, annoyance began to be experienced; indeed, had it been so before, the floors of most of the churches would yearly have been submerged under 8 or 9 feet of water. But these facts I leave for geologists to decide upon, hoping next month to have more to communicate on the subject of Gloucester antiquities. [See Note 12.]

JOHN CLARKE.

[1855, *Part II.*, p. 42.]

Many fragments of Samian ware have been discovered—portions of small vases, one in particular, which, if it had not been broken by the workmen who found it, would have been indeed a treasure. It seems to have been ornamented at the top with a wreathed border, under which came a frieze containing masks and figures of men and animals, horses running, and athletes performing feats similar to those enacted by the acrobats in our travelling circuses; one in particular is stretching out his legs between two posts, just in the same manner as the chair-trick is performed in the present day. On the foot of the vase is the word “Advocis.” This is all we can say of the vase, which is broken.

The great quantity of sheep's bones found at a great distance beneath the surface of the streets is with difficulty accounted for . . .

Not very far from the Roman pavement, in Longsmith Street, we found the remains of another Roman habitation, between 10 and 12

feet below the surface. The plan of a room, 16 feet by 14, could clearly be made out, and there were several walls of stone running in various directions. Several fragments of Samian ware were found, also many bones and some goats' horns. It is probable that the lower portion of the house was used as a cellar or kitchen, many centuries after the Romans had left the country; for several remains of mediæval pottery were also found, in particular one culinary utensil of green enamelled earthenware, of almost circular shape, with a strangely indented handle, a large mouth and a kind of spout or bottle-neck, apparently for the purpose of letting off the steam. It contained when found the bones of some small animal or bird, but unfortunately these were disposed of to the scavenger before we came on the spot. The vase was entirely covered with a curious running pattern of alternate shapes and wavy lines. It is about 13 inches in height and 12 in diameter. A smaller vessel of red earthenware, about the size and nearly in the shape of an ordinary wash-hand jug, was also found, as well as the neck and bottom of an amphora, of Samian ware, and one or two curious mediæval jug-handles. Mr. Disney, the clerk of the works for the sewerage, now looks out sharply for antiquities. The other day he succeeded in obtaining a very perfect Roman spearhead.

#### KINGSHOLM, NEAR GLOUCESTER.

[1815, *Part II.*, pp. 271, 272.]

As some workmen were employed in digging a cellar at Mr. Simms's, at the King's Holm, near Gloucester, they discovered a stone coffin, of large dimensions. On removing the lid (10 inches in thickness) they found enclosed therein a leaden coffin, containing a complete skeleton, with the arms folded across the breast. Several coffins of the same kind have, at different times, been found on these premises; also urns filled with ashes, ancient military weapons, Roman steelyards or balances, and coins of the later empire. There is no doubt of King's Holm having been a station of considerable importance; and it is generally understood that the principal part of Gloucester lay there in the time of the Romans. (See accounts of Roman antiquities discovered there, in "*Archæologia*," vii. 376—381; x. 132.)

[1853, *Part II.*, pp. 39, 40.]

Some relics [have been] lately brought under our notice, found, within a tract of verdant meadows, but now swarming with elegant villas, the last few months, at Kingsholm, near Gloucester. Urns, lachrymatories, coins, and other relics found at Kingsholm, a suburb, within our recollection, have led to the conclusion that the place of interment was on the north-west side of the city. On this side was the great Ermyrn



Street or main road from Londinium, the strait course of which may be seen from Birdlip, a hill about five miles distant from the present city, and its further course traced from Wotton, another suburb, through Kingsholm. [See *sub voce* Wotton.] It is probable that the cemetery of Glevum, like that of Pompeii, was on both sides of the road, because remains have been found all along the ancient line of way from Wotton to Kingsholm. Many of these remains have been already noticed by archæologists. The late G. W. Counsel, Esq., not only collected every relic he could, but recorded their existence in his valuable little "History of Gloucester," now out of print. At the last meeting of the Archæological Association at Gloucester, Thomas Niblet, Esq., also drew attention to them; and we refer the reader to the transactions of that society for further information on the subject.

A few months since a field in Kingsholm, the property of Mr. Reynolds, an extensive iron merchant of Gloucester, was excavated for building, and many additional proofs of the existence of the Glevum cemetery were brought to light. Unfortunately, no systematic inquiry was made; indeed, nothing was known generally about them till a number of skulls and a skeleton of unusual dimensions attracted the attention of the public. Then we found, on inquiry, that several large urns of light-red earthenware, coins, lamps, and "odd-looking bits of brass" had been turned up; but the workmen had mistaken the urns for common flowerpots, and smashed them without mercy, and the coins had been disposed of to various persons for tobacco and halfpence. But a few things had been preserved by the care of Mr. Reynolds and one or two better judges of their value. Among these we may first mention a small lamp, not of uncommon though elegant shape, and sundry coins of the reigns of Vespasian, Claudius, Nero, and Augustus, and several medals apparently struck to commemorate some victory. We also saw the neck of an urn, the elegant shape of which made us regret the wanton destruction of the others, which we were assured by an intelligent builder stood more than a foot high. The lamp was of gilt bronze, and, strange to say, a portion of the delicate and minute suspending chain was attached to it.

It is probable that Kingsholm continued to be a burial-place for two centuries after the Roman period, as many Saxon remains have been found there, but the recent excavations have not disclosed any of importance. We may mention that the skulls were remarkably fine, one indeed of a development of which Brutus need not have been ashamed. The superiority of their formation to those at the same time brought under our notice from the stone coffins at Llanthony Priory was remarkably striking; but these matters are more the province of the phrenologist than the antiquary.

J. CLARKE.

## HORSEFIELD.

[1817, *Part II.*, p. 272.]

Some very curious antiquities were recently discovered 4 feet below the soil at Horsefield, near Barton. They consist of a chain with six collars, for conducting slaves ; also a double fulcrum, showing the manner in which the spits of the ancients were supported for roasting meat, and illustrating the line of Virgil,

Subjiciunt veribus prunas, et viscera torrent. [Eniad, v. 103.]

## LOUTH.

[1801, *Part II.*, p. 1161.]

A curious chequered pavement was lately discovered, at Louth, by the workmen employed in repairing the house of John Simpson, Esq., M.P. It lies 3 feet from the surface of the earth. The pavement at Woodchester, in Gloucestershire, lies at about the same depth ; but in general, as Bishop Gibson observes, these tessellated pavements do not lay so deep as 3 feet. The diameter of it is now 16 feet 6 inches ; but it is not in perfect preservation, and seems to have been originally of larger dimensions. The inmost circle is divided into eight compartments. Two of the other circles consist of larger, and five of smaller oblong or cubical bricks. The figures of pillars and arches are contained in a circle of 1 foot in breadth. The remainder of the pavement is composed of bricks of a rhomboidal figure ; and they appear to have been of different colours, and varied alternately.

ROBERT UVEDALE.

## OAKLEY.

[1824, *Part I.*, p. 454.]

As some workmen were employed in removing a mulberry-tree, near Barton Mill, at a short distance from one of the entrances to Oakley Park, the seat of the Earl of Bathurst, in the county of Gloucester, they discovered some tessellated pavement ; and pursuing their search, by the direction of his lordship, who immediately ordered a tent to be erected over the spot to protect the pavement from the effects of the weather, it was ascertained that the curious remains must have been the floor of an apartment. The subject is presumed to relate to Orpheus, as the centre figure is seen with one hand resting on a musical instrument, and surrounded, as the classic legends describe the great master of song, by the quadruped and biped auditors, the fierceness of whose savage natures had been subdued into gentleness by the magic charm of his melody. Amongst other objects are distinctly seen a lion, a panther, a peacock, a peahen, and various beasts and birds, the greatest part of which are in excellent preservation, and the colours vividly bright. The whole of the tesserae yet developed occupies a space of about 12 feet square, one corner of which was accidentally mutilated by the workmen before

the importance of the curiosity was discovered. Already has this vestige of Roman antiquity attracted a vast concourse of people.

## UPPER SLAUGHTER.

[1864, *Part I.*, p. 365.]

A discovery was made in the parish of Upper Slaughter last month, which ought, I think, to be chronicled in your pages.

There is a road through that parish, west of the village, called Beggy Hill Way, the derivation of which, according to local authorities, is "the way over the hill leading to the Big Way," *i.e.*, the Foss. On the west side of this road, and (*vide* Ordnance Map) just below the angle made by a road leading up to Wagborough Bush, several skeletons at different times have been found in digging stone for the road.

A man so occupied struck against a leaden coffin, 6 feet 1 inch long, 1 foot 7 inches wide, and 1 foot 6 inches deep. It had no lid, and had evidently been enclosed in a wooden coffin 2 inches thick. All the wood was gone, except that adhering to two or three nails, which were 5 inches in length. The lead was so much corroded and wasted that the coffin could not be brought out entire. There were many angular pieces of iron which had served to clamp the wood-coffin, or case, together. The head of the skeleton lay to the north; the rock had broken in upon the coffin, which had evidently been within a vault of very rough masonry, and without mortar. There were no letters or figures of any kind upon the lead, and no coin, bottle, or inscription to afford any information as to the character of the occupant. The body was that of a male; the skull was remarkable for an occipital protuberance, prolonged downwards into a spinous process; the bones and the points for attachment of the muscles are those of an unusually large and powerful man.

I am, etc. DAVID ROYCE.

## WITHINGTON.

[1811, *Part II.*, p. 80.]

In ploughing up a field at Withington, six miles from Cheltenham, and two from Frogmill, the property of H. F. Brooke, Esq., of Henbury, near Bristol, a beautiful tessellated pavement was lately discovered. Mr. Lysons and other gentlemen are now employed in examining these fine remains. The site of a villa 150 feet in length has been ascertained, and seven rooms clearly traced. The pavements are enriched with drawings, in high preservation, of Neptune, Orpheus, animals, birds, fishes, etc. An Hippocaust, or sweating-room, with its flues, and several pillars of considerable magnitude, are visible. Whatever part could be removed with safety has been presented by Mr. Brooke to the British Museum.



## WOTTON.

[1824, *Part II.*, p. 165.]

A few days since, as some workmen were employed in digging on land belonging to Mr. Creed adjoining the turnpike-road at Wotton, near Gloucester, they discovered, 2 feet below the surface of the earth, a stone about 4 feet long and 3 feet wide, on which is carved *in alto relievo* a representation of an ancient warrior on horseback, with a legionary Roman sword by his side and a spear in his hand, in the act of striking at a Briton who lies prostrate on the ground, and who is defending himself with a sword of a different description. At the top of the stone is fixed the statue of a female between two lions. It appears to have been originally a raised monument, as two pedestals on which it stood, ornamented with mouldings, were found near it. On the lower part of the stone is an inscription, of which the following is a copy: [Huebner, p. 30]

RUFUS SITA EQUES CHO VI TRACUM ANN XL  
STIP XXII HEREDES EXS TEST F CURAVE  
H S E

Which may be translated, "Rufus Sita, of the 6th Cohort of Thracian Cavalry, aged 40, had served 22 years. His heirs caused this to be made according to his will.—Let this be sacred." A great number of coins have been found in the fields adjoining at different times, chiefly of Tiberius, Claudius, and Nero, and also of other emperors.

Another monument has since been discovered, but in a very mutilated state; also a great many urns of Roman pottery, filled with ashes and burnt bones. This monument contains the following inscriptions:

XX SLIVI SATVRNINI STIPENDIORVM  
XIII ORUM MXXXX.

The road adjoining to which these remains of antiquity were found was the Hermen or Irmen Street of the Romans.

[1838, *Part I.*, p. 302.]

On the 13th December some workmen employed in digging the foundation of a house adjoining the turnpike-road at Wotton, near Gloucester, found, about 3 feet below the surface of the earth, three urns of Roman pottery. Two of them were broken to pieces through the carelessness of the men, but the other is in a most perfect state of preservation, and was filled with burnt bones and ashes. The place where these remains of antiquity were discovered was on the border of Hermon Street (the *via militaris* of the Romans). In the adjoining fields were found numerous coins, chiefly of Tiberius, Claudius, and Nero, the whole of which, together with the urn, are in the possession of G. W. Counsel, Esq., of Gloucester.

## WYCOMB.

[1863, *Part II.*, p. 627.]

Permit me to inform you that excavations have been making, during the last three or four weeks, upon land belonging to me, designated Wycomb, near Andoversford, in this county, and that the tradition of the country, that this was the site of "a burnt Roman town," is fully confirmed.

We have brought to light large masses of foundations in several parts of the field,—some of them, probably, part of extensive barracks, others those of residences; but the foundations have been as yet only imperfectly excavated, and owing to the very limited subscription made for the purpose, the works have been suspended, but I trust there is prospect of their being renewed under more favourable circumstances.

The area of the site, however, extends over nearly thirty acres, and involves a considerable outlay.

I shall be most happy, if you will permit me, to transmit you for your December number a detail of our operations (and sketches of the principal objects which we have discovered). In the meantime, allow me to send you a statement of some of the most interesting objects which we have found.

Several hundred coins, principally Roman, and small brass, extending from the earlier emperors to Arcadius; and British-Roman of the subsequent period.

A very large quantity of pottery, including plain and figured Samian.

Some very fine fibulæ, specimens of the stylus, keys, sacrificing and other knives, and articles of the toilet, etc.

A perfect cranium of the *Bos longifrons*, with the cores in their places.

A rude but singular piece of Roman sculpture in stone, 10 inches by 7—three small figures in deep relief, the central one apparently a person of importance, in military toga, between two attendants who seem to be musicians.

A very beautiful bronze statuette, 3 inches high—a small figure with his toga wound round him, and his right arm raised as if addressing an assembly.

I shall, I fear, trespass too largely upon your space if I pursue this enumeration.

I am, etc. W. L. LAWRENCE.

[1864, *Part I.*, pp. 86-88.]

I have the pleasure of transmitting you, in accordance with my note of October 24, further particulars as to the excavations made at Wycomb.

Wycomb is an arable field in the parish of Whittington, Gloucestershire, and has, from time immemorial, been considered to be the site of a Roman town. Coins in large numbers have been constantly found in it.

It is oblong in shape, running almost due north and south, flat nearly over its whole surface, except towards its north-eastern extremity, where it rises by a gentle ascent. It is bounded on a portion of its western side by a small stream, a great portion of which issues from the Sideford spring, a short distance above it, and which forms there a sheet of water of some two or three acres, and probably of much larger extent in ancient times.

							A.	R.	P.
The quantity of Wycomb is ... ..							24	I	II

On the south of it, and reaching to Andoversford Inn, are two fields:

							A.	R.	P.
Black Close	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	0	2
Meadow...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	I	30
							II	I	32

also believed to contain foundations; and from that point on the south of the road leading to Cheltenham are meadows of more than twenty acres in extent, with traces of buildings in them.

Before the wheat crop on Wycomb was cut for the late harvest, the track of a road was distinctly visible in it from a point on the north-eastern side to the centre, where it appeared to turn to the right and left. No external marks of foundations are to be seen in the field, but when cultivated, the plough continually brings large stones to the surface, and grates against others.

The soil is for the most part rich vegetable mould, with gravel beneath it.

Foundations have been discovered in Wycomb in all parts of the field.

At the north-eastern end, and on the east of the road to which allusion has been made, are two masses of building intersected by a wall of cut masonry 145 feet long, running at right angles to the road, and afterwards bounding it for a considerable distance.

The mass on the north side of the wall consists of a large undivided room, 45 feet 6 inches long and 22 feet broad, with other walls and pavements adjacent to it; that on the south has the appearance of a regularly built edifice, only a small portion of which, about 40 feet long, has been excavated.

The walls of these buildings are 2 feet 6 inches and 2 feet thick. The floors are mostly of stone, laid in cement and gravel concrete.

Descending the road from this point, and on its western side, is a



semicircular foundation of strong rough masonry, 76 feet long, probably portion of an amphitheatre.

Still lower on the road, and immediately opposite the spot where in the summer it appeared to turn in opposite directions, is a mass of building, 75 feet long and 50 feet broad, subdivided into six compartments. One of these may have been a passage, the other rooms for habitation, and two are triangular, the whole appearing to form part of a semicircular building, with a wide base on the south, and probably having a court in its centre. It was possibly a barrack. The walls are of strong masonry, of varying thickness; the floors, as far as excavated, planking and gravel concrete.

Immediately to the south of this are two upright polished slabs converging to a point, standing due east and west, that on the south side 4 feet 6 inches long, that on the north 3 feet 6 inches, having been broken; and the width between the two at the broken part is 2 feet 6 inches. The base of the triangle, of which these stones formed a part, is circular, and of wrought masonry, some solid, some broken; and in all probability a third slab was placed horizontally upon the others so as to form a place of sepulture in Celtic times.

Proceeding from thence southward are the foundations of a large, well-built structure in two divisions, the farther one 41 feet square, the nearer 21 feet by 27 feet.

The larger building has a small compartment in it, 8 feet by 4 feet, on the north side, and in its centre a floor of hewn stone, somewhat raised in the middle, massive, and originally well worked, but now in a very mutilated condition. Pieces of sculptured stone and parts of a broken pediment were found in and near it; and between 500 and 600 coins and a bronze statuette were discovered within its circuit. In all probability it was a temple. The interior of the other room has not yet been excavated.

To the west of this, and passing some stone troughs and drains which appear to be part of a yard for domestic purposes, is a mass of untraced and unexcavated foundations of considerable length, and with pavements, forges, and fireplaces, and they are no doubt parts of larger edifices. A sculptured stone was found in the upper part of this locality; and nearly parallel with it are two foundations, one of 17 feet 6 inches by 15 feet 6 inches, the other 11 feet 6 inches square, at present isolated, but probably connected with other buildings.

At the southern extremity of the field, and against the hedge separating it from Black Close, is a large foundation which extends into it, but which could not be examined owing to the ground being now planted.

Very few bricks have been found in the buildings: they consist almost entirely of the oolite of the district, and the stone was no doubt raised at the Brockhampton Quarry, only two miles distant,

and from which there is an easy descent to the spot. Traces of fire are visible in every part of the field, with stones wholly calcined, and masses of ashes mixed with the mould, and pieces of burnt wood and charcoal among them.

Many interesting relics have been discovered during the prosecution of the work, consisting of—

Pottery in very large quantities, including good specimens of plain and figured Samian.

Coins, between 700 and 800 in number, mostly small brass and Roman, many of them in good preservation, and extending from the earlier emperors to Arcadius, with Roman-British coins of the subsequent period.

Several very good fibulæ, styli, sacrificing and other knives, keys, and articles of the toilet, etc.

The bronze statuette before mentioned, a figure 3 inches in height, at first thought to be that of a Roman general, but now considered to be Grecian, and of Mars. It has a plain helmet, is encased in light body-armour, perhaps mail, wears a species of kilt, has greaves on its legs, its cloak lightly folded round it, so as to admit of easy movement. The right hand is raised aloft, and had something in it, which is unfortunately lost. This may have been a small bronze axe, which was found near the spot, or perhaps was a spear, if the figure is that of Mars. Independently of any artistic merit which the figure may possess, it is of much value as giving the costume of the soldier, whether Greek or Roman, of the period, and is in excellent preservation.

A rudely sculptured stone, in the oolite of the country, size 10 inches by 7, representing three figures in deep relief, apparently a comic scene, of parties dressed in character, and it may be wearing masks, the central figure representing a chief in military costume, that to the right wearing a sort of crown, and playing on a musical instrument, and laughing immoderately. The other figure is defaced, but is also playing on a musical instrument.

Bones of animals in large quantities, cores of the horns of the *Bos longifrons*, and a cranium of a female of that species, perfect in the upper portion of it, and having the cores inserted in their places.

A small and very rude votive offering, with figures of a female in long dress, and children, possibly ancient British.

Wycomb was in all probability the site of a British village, and was afterwards an important Roman military station, combined with residential houses.

No position could have been better calculated for the concentration of troops. It was near the point where the ancient road from Cirencester to Cleeve Hill intersected those from Campden, Stow, and the higher Cotswolds to Gloucester. It was distant little more than a mile from a large camp at Dowdeswell, and was only three

miles from the Watch-towers on Cleeve Hill, from whence an extensive view is obtained over the vale of the Severn, and the approach of an enemy easily detected, and it had various camps and stations to the north and east. It lay in a fertile and sheltered valley, much more capable of permanent occupation than the bleak downs by which it was surrounded, and adjoined an abundant and never-failing spring of the purest water.

It certainly will be matter for deep regret, after the success which has attended the limited efforts of those who have been engaged in the excavations at Wycomb, if a full and searching investigation is not hereafter made of the site. This, however, cannot be accomplished by individual means.

I am, etc. W. L. LAWRENCE.

[1864, *Part II.*, pp. 85-87.]

I now beg to communicate to you the results of examinations recently made of our last year's excavations at Wycomb, and of some further researches by the Committee of Management, aided, I am glad to say, by a liberal donation from the Society of Antiquaries. I forward also for insertion in your magazine a copy of a plan of the site, a reference to which will give a much better idea of it than any written description.

The attention of the committee was first directed to the building, which I mentioned in my last letter as probably having been a temple, and marked Nos. 15 and 16 on the plan.

Everything tends to confirm either this supposition, or that it was a place of public assemblage. On the eastern side of the larger room of it there is the appearance of the site of a shrine, and the pavement is deeply worn away by much usage. It could not have been a place of residence, as scarcely any pottery has been found in it.

The smaller room was in two divisions; the floor is at present of gravel concrete, probably once with a stone pavement above it, which has been removed. The entrance of the building was apparently on the eastern side and fronting the road, which it is imagined went down the centre of the field, and it is surrounded on the east, north, and south by a layer of gravel concrete, intersected by broken foundations on the southern side, probably division walls, and near this point is a small fireplace, No. 17 on the plan, in perfect preservation.

On the west of this foundation there are very considerable remains of others, to which I briefly alluded in my former letter, and which have been now more fully examined, and are marked No. 13. They were in a state of great dilapidation, totally destroyed in some portions, and with the pavement torn up in others, and in one part blackened by fire, which appears to have been of the most serious



character, from the quantities of calcined stones and charred wood which were discovered on the spot.

These buildings were probably part, it may have been the offices, of a large residential edifice, extending towards the west. On the eastern side is a large mass of stone pitching, terminated by a semi-circular line of raised stonework. On the south, the buildings evidently extended to what has every appearance of having been a street, marked 24 on the plan, and which crossed the field transversely, from west to east, nearly reaching a large foundation, No. 28. This is of great strength and solidity, composed of massive stones, and probably was part of some building for defensive purposes.

The street itself is from 8 to 10 feet wide, composed at its western end of large stones set vertically, further on of smaller stones laid flat.

At the western end the layer of stone is 6 inches thick, then there are 5 inches of mould, succeeded by gravel concrete 2 feet thick, resting on a layer of black ashes 1 inch thick, a record of former destruction.

The greater portion of the best and figured Samian found in the field was from the vicinity of group No. 13, as well as hypocaust, striated and other tiles.

The next point which engaged the attention of the committee was the mass of foundations, Nos. 6 to 9, and especially between letters A and B. It was discovered that the wall at this point was of different structure from those abutting upon it, and of much greater solidity, composed of five layers of stones, placed vertically, and firmly cemented together, in thickness a little more than 3 feet; in depth, to within 1 foot of the surface of the ground, 4 feet 4 inches.

The upper layer was set nearly upright, and had the appearance of rough pitching, and it is feared that several similar walls in the field were not examined, owing to the mistake caused by this resemblance.

The wall, at right angles to this, is of regular masonry, about 2 feet thick and 20 inches deep, to within a foot from the surface, and was found to rest, in places, upon large masses of stones and layers of ashes,—proving that this also had been erected upon the ruins of a former edifice.

Another foundation near this, marked 11, was traced for a considerable distance, and it is evident from the scantiness of the soil near the spot, and its unproductiveness comparatively with the rest of the field, that foundations and pavements exist on the whole of this immediate locality.

An opening made between foundation 9 and 11 gave pavement and pitching 6 inches below the surface, and under this was a layer of at least 2 feet of rich black earth, full of ashes and pottery, some of it apparently of an earlier date than Roman, and other relics.

The soil was also opened in another contiguous spot, and showed a section of a few inches of mould, then rubbish 6 inches, and black

earth of the same character, and contents as before, 1 foot 6 inches thick, with a layer of clay 2 inches thick placed on the gravel of the natural soil, as in some other parts of the field.

The whole of the space to the north and west of these foundations should be excavated, and it is far from impossible, looking at their shape and form, that they are connected with the wall No. 5, supposed to be portion of an amphitheatre.

If the space to the west of foundation No. 13 were also excavated, it would determine the shape and character of this portion of the site, as the ground slopes considerably from the footpath marked on the plan to the stream, and most probably was cultivated for gardens.

After these examinations had been completed, all the excavations were filled up, as it was necessary to restore the land to the tenant for cultivation, but an accurate survey has been made of the field, and the positions determined of all the points of interest, and of the foundations, so as to admit of their being re-opened without difficulty.

I must now allude to the various objects found in the field, and as to which I remarked briefly in my former letter.

First, as to Coins. Altogether more than eleven hundred have been collected since the work was commenced, and of these perhaps a third or more are illegible. The greater proportion are of third-brass, but there are some in large-brass, of value, and in excellent preservation, of Germanicus, Alexander Severus, Antoninus, Constantius, Diocletian; and a great many smaller ones, which are good and in excellent condition, of the Constantines, Constantius, Helena, Theodora, Constans, Carausius, Allectus, Flavius Victor, Valens, Arcadius, Honorius, Theodosius, etc.; proving that the Romans retained possession of their station at Wycomb to the last moment of their stay in Britain.

It is also worthy of remark, that in the edition of *Antoninus Itinerary*, by the Rev. P. Reynolds, 1799, dedicated by him to William (Bennett) Lord Bishop of Cloyne, he inserts "Syreford" in his Map of England, and thus alludes to it in the list of "towns where Roman antiquities have been found:"—

"Syreford, Gloucestershire, near Cheltenham,  
Coins produced in abundance."

*Bishop of Cloyne.*

A reference to the Preface shows that the Bishop of Cloyne supplied much information to the editor, and that it was his lordship's custom to make frequent tours for antiquarian researches, and in one of these he must personally have visited Syreford, which is synonymous with Wycomb, being the designation of the hamlet in which it is situated, of the ford of the stream near it, and of a small inn, now a farmhouse, which stands on its very border. Many thousand coins must have been found on the spot since the bishop's period.

Secondly, articles in iron, bronze, etc. Of these great numbers have been discovered: in iron—Spearheads, sacrificing and other knives, axes, manacles, strigils, keys, part of a saddle, rings, nails, buckles, and other large and small objects.

In bronze: a pair of compasses, fibulæ, styli, rings, armillæ, torques, pins, and various small ornaments.

In glass: some very good specimens of different sorts, beads, and other small articles.

Part of a broken statue, sculptured stones, probably Roman, and others of various descriptions, with a rounded pebble hammer, possibly British.

Thirdly, flints in considerable quantities, some of them large and worked, and others in small flakes, indisputable evidence of early British occupation.

Fourthly, pottery in very large quantities, mostly common, but some of good forms, and one or two jars which are nearly perfect; also figured Samian, of which some is capable of restoration.

Fifthly, millstones from Andernach, of which there are some good and nearly perfect specimens, and many boar-tusks, horn-cores, and deer-horns.

There are also several pieces of sculptured stone of ornamental character, and parts of broken columns from the vicinity of the temple.

I have only further to notice a small oblong hole, No. 29 on the plan, 2 feet 6 inches long and 1 foot 6 inches wide, 1 foot below the surface, walled all round, except at a portion of the western side, apparently a small place of sepulture. A rude fibula, bones and ashes, and pottery were found in it.

W. L. LAWRENCE.

[1864, *Part II.*, p. 432.]

We have now the pleasure of submitting to our readers an engraving of the bronze statuette found at Wycomb in October last, to which allusion has before been made in the pages of this magazine. It is represented as standing on a small stone altar, also discovered at Wycomb, and which perhaps may have been its pedestal in past days.

The figure, which evidently represents Mars, is perfect in every particular, except the spear in the right hand and the shield on which the left rested, and is of exquisite workmanship, more especially as to the finish and delicacy of the features, and the accuracy of even the most minute detail of either the dress or figure.

The paludamentum thrown gracefully over the shoulder, and the greaves which it wears, are considered by some antiquaries of eminence to be unequivocal evidences of Grecian origin,—by others it is held to be Roman.



The annexed figures of the statuette and the small altar which serves it as a pedestal are both of the exact size of the originals.

The small profile is given in order to show more clearly the form of the helmet.

#### THE SEVERN.

[1824, *Part I.*, p. 627.]

As some labourers were lately employed in digging part of the foundation of the projected bridge at the Haw Passage, they discovered, at the depth of 7 feet from the Severn's bed, a large vase of great antiquity, and internally of very curious workmanship. It is composed of mixed metal, and at the surface is about 12 inches in diameter. On the inside at the bottom is a small circle in which the figure of a man in an upright sitting posture is carved out, and with a pen seems in the act of tracing the devices and inscriptions, which are all of different mythological subjects, and wrought in seven distinct compartments, in one of which is recorded the birth of Maximus; in another the infant Hercules strangling the serpents in his cradle; and in a third, the giant Hercules slaying a dragon. The outside of the vase is quite plain, as is the rim; but there is not the slightest rust or canker to be seen about it. The inscriptions are in very perfect preservation. The vase is in the possession of the person who keeps the ferry-house at the Hawe, and, it is said, will be sent to the British Museum.

[1832, *Part I.*, pp. 13, 14.]

In the year 1824 two curious bowls were found in the bed of the Severn, near the Haw Passage; one of which, in the possession of Jeremiah Hawkins, Esq., was described in your vol. xciv. ii. 164, and further noticed in vol. xcv. i. 417, 605. [See Note 13.] It is ornamented in seven compartments, with engravings of the stories of Ganymede, Eurydice, and others in ancient mythology; as is detailed in your pages at the place first named. A large lithograph was also made, and copied in the *Monthly Magazine*.

Of the second bowl, which was found shortly after the first, at nearly the same part of the river, and is kept at the Haw Passage public-house, I have seen neither drawing nor description in any periodical, and as I promised the latter when I last wrote to you on this subject, I am now enabled to send it you.

It is in every respect a fellow of the first-mentioned bowl, except in the engravings. The shape is circular,  $10\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter, with an horizontal rim at top,  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch wide. Its depth internally at the centre,  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch, and its thickness  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch. It is of a bright yellowish cast, and somewhat resembles bell-metal. The annexed outline sketch and section (drawn to a scale of 6 inches to an inch) will tend to make the description more interesting.

On the surface of its concavity, within seven compartments, are the rude engravings; in the periphery of each of which is a Latin hexameter engraved in Roman capitals. The centre compartment is  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide, and is raised  $\frac{3}{16}$  of an inch above the lowest part of the bowl. Cadmus is here represented at his studies; he is said to have first introduced the use of letters into Greece, which is thus described in the circumference:

CADMVS . GRECORVM . SCRVTATOR . GRAMATA . PRIMVM.

The remaining compartments are segments of circles  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter, and contain representations of the labours of Hercules.

The segments numbered 2 and 3 in the sketch contain representations of the birth of Hercules, and his strangling the snakes sent to devour him by the jealous Juno. This story is alluded to in the following lines:

MAXIMVS . ALCMENA . LICET . INDIGNANTE . NOVERCA .  
EDITVS . ALCIDES . IMMISSOS . STRANGVLAT . ANGVES.

No. 4 is a representation of Hercules in his eleventh labour, slaying the dragon in the garden of the Hesperides, who were celebrated nymphs appointed to guard the golden apples presented by Juno to Jupiter on the day of their nuptials. It is thus described:

ALCIDES . VIGILEM . SOPIVIT . CLAVA . DRACONEM.

In No. 5, Hercules is represented destroying the monster Geryon King of Gades, who had numerous herds of cattle which were guarded by the two-headed dog Orthos and the centaur Eurythion. Hercules, by order of Eurystheus, killed Geryon, and afterwards Orthos and Eurythion, and then carried away the flocks which fed upon human flesh.

The circumscription is:

GEREONIS . - - - - \* RAPIT ET . COMBVSSERAT . IDRAM.

"Et combusserat idram," in this line alludes (I imagine) to his destruction of the Lernæan hydra, which had seven heads. As soon as one was mangled another sprang up in its place, until Iolas with a hot iron burnt the root of the head which Hercules had crushed to pieces.

In the sixth division, Hercules is represented attacking the famous robber Cacus, said to have had three heads, and to have vomited flames. This took place after his victory over Geryon, in consequence of Cacus stealing some of his cows, which the robber dragged backwards into his cave in order to prevent discovery. The allusion is in the three first words of the following line:

CACUS . CESSIT . EI—SUCCUMBIT . JANITOR . ORCI.

The latter part of the above line describes his last labour, which

\* The word here omitted is in the copy of the lines I have by me quite unintelligible, but it evidently means *cattle*, *cows*, or *oxen*.

was to bring upon earth Cerberus, the watchful keeper of the entrance into Hell. Pluto permitted Hercules to carry away the dog, provided he used only his own force.

The death of Hercules is the subject of the seventh compartment. He is represented on a burning pile, which was erected by himself on Mount Æta, on account of the credulity of Dejanira, the cruelty of Eurystheus, and the jealousy of Juno. On this he laid himself down, leaning his head on his club. The pile was set on fire, and he was suddenly surrounded by flames. Jupiter seeing him from heaven, raised his immortal parts to the skies, as a hero who had freed the earth from so many monsters.

The circumscribed description is :

INCENDEBAT . EVM . MERETRIX . DEJANIRA . VIRVM.

Yours, etc. FRANCIS WHISHAW.

## Hampshire.

### ANDOVER.

[1866, *Part II.*, p. 335.]

Mr. Charles Lockhart has recently been making researches near Andover on the supposed site of the Roman station *Vindomis*, which will tend to awaken the somewhat dormant interest of the antiquarian world in the Roman road and stations in this county, especially as Silchester is revealing so much under the direction of the Rev. J. G. Joyce. Mr. Lockhart's observations and discoveries go to confirm Sir R. C. Hoare's opinion that Vindomis was situate on what is now Finkley Farm. The distance from Silchester agrees with that in the 15th iter of Antoninus; and Mr. Lockhart says the fields there are strewn with remains of pottery, tiles, and *débris*, such as always bespeak the pre-occupation of the ground by Roman buildings. The country-people call the place "Old Andover," and they tell you that a town once stood there. The 15th iter of Antoninus, which starts from Calleva (Silchester), makes the distance from Vindomis to *Venta Belgarum* to be 21 miles. Hatcher remarks that Finkley also suits this distance; but Mr. Lockhart states it is not so far by some miles. The question is, Has the Roman road been measured? Mr. Lockhart states also that he has discovered, at a very short distance from Finkley, a large British camp, which appears to have escaped previous notice.

C. ROACH SMITH.

### BISHOPSTOKE.

[1864, *Part I.*, pp. 330, 331.]

A leaden coffin was discovered (January 16, 1864) by some labourers whilst procuring gravel for the purpose of repairing the permanent



way of the South-Western Railway, on a piece of land adjoining the railway embankment, about a mile on this side of the Bishopstoke Junction. This land is rented for that purpose of Mr. Chamberlayne, of Cranbury Park. At a distance of about 5 feet below the surface of the land, which had been for many years used for agricultural purposes, they drove their pick into some foreign substance, which, on examination, turned out to be a piece of lead. On clearing away the gravel a leaden cist was exposed to view. The lower part was somewhat injured by the pressure or falling in of the earth, and a similar pressure had begun to take effect on the right side of the coffin. On attempting to remove the lid or covering, the lead, weakened by corrosion, gave way and parted into several pieces, and fragments of the lead, as well as some of the earth, fell into the coffin. The pieces of the now broken lid being removed, a skeleton was exposed to view. The lower extremities were, however, wanting, and had probably perished in the commencement of the excavation, as it was into the lower end of the cist that the workmen had struck their pickaxes. The sinking of one side of the lid had depressed the right ribs, and caused a more early decay of that side of the body. The left ribs remained undisturbed. Above the right shoulder were fragments of glass vessels, broken in all probability by the unskilful opening of the coffin. The earth having been cleared away from the sides, the broken cist was removed with some care to a workshop about a quarter of a mile below the station.

A communication of the circumstances of this discovery having been made to me by the railway officials, I proceeded on Tuesday (January 19) to Bishopstoke, and on entering the building where it had been deposited began at once to arrange the pieces of the lid, and of the lower part of the coffin, and the broken portions of the sides, so as to enable me to make an exact sketch. There appear to have been three or perhaps four bottles, or lachrymatories, of a thin, yellowish, pale green-coloured sparkling glass. Of these bottles one appears to have had straight sides, another was of a form somewhat resembling a soda-water bottle, whilst a third was of a much more globular form, and the glass of the thinnest description. There were no traces of handles, and the only attempt at ornament was a single and double line or ring marked upon the most perfect of the three necks. These rings are simply scratched, and may have been turned upon a lathe. The leaden coffin measured 5 feet 6 inches in length inside, and its interior breadth was 16 or 16½ inches, and the depth at the sides gave 9½ inches. It was of uniform width throughout, and made out of one piece of lead by the corners being cut out, and the sides and ends being turned up and lapped over for about an inch. The lid was made in a similar manner, and was lapped over the top of the coffin to the depth of 3 inches. The lead was at least a quarter of an inch in thickness, and was devoid of ornament.

No inscription was discernible, and after a careful search no coins or other relics could be discovered.\*

The remains are, in all probability, those of a noble Roman lady, of small and delicate frame, who died at an early age (not more than twenty-five, if so old).

The coffin, when discovered, was nearly due east and west, the head lying to the west. From an inspection of the spot, it is quite evident that there was a coffin of wood, in which the leaden one had been enclosed; blackened fragments of decayed wood were abundant below and round the sides of the place where it had been dug out.

As a large portion of the land still remains undisturbed, though marked out for excavation, it is not unlikely that other relics may be brought to light in the immediate neighbourhood of this interment. In 1809 two leaden coffins, void of ornament, and of a similar construction, were found in a Roman tomb at Southfleet, Kent. Similar coffins have also been found at York, one of which is in the museum of that city, and another in that of my deceased friend, the late Mr. Bateman, of Youlgrave, Derbyshire; but I am not aware of any previous discovery of a similar character in this county.

F. J. BAIGENT.

BRAMDEAN.

[1823, *Part I.*, pp. 631, 632.]

Some splendid remains of antiquity have been recently discovered in a field on the estate of W. Greenwood, Esq., of Brookwood, in Hampshire. Six tessellated pavements have been already cleared, two of which are of the most intricate and beautiful workmanship; the smallest of these contains representations of eight of the heathen gods (four of which are perfect), round a Medusa's head as a centre-piece. The larger has a very beautiful octagonal centre-piece, representing Hercules and Antæus, and a reclining armed figure extending her hand to the wrestlers. This is surrounded by four large heads and an intricate arrangement of highly-ornamented squares, forming octagons, diamonds, etc. This last room appears to be built on arches, and the hollow beneath it is connected with the upper air by flues at equal distances in the walls. The remainder of the pavements (except a very small mutilated imperfect pattern in a sort of passage) is plain, and very perfect, and composed of bricks about an inch square. Workmen are continually removing the rubbish, and it is expected much more will be discovered. About thirty yards from what appears the main building a very large rough-bricked pavement has been found, nearly 2 feet beneath the surface, the connection of which with the above pavements is as yet unexplored.

\* The discovery of this coffin was the subject of papers read before the Society of Antiquaries and the British Archæological Association in January last. Reported in *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1864, Part I., pp. 334, 340, 341.



A few coins only have yet been discovered ; one of them is a very perfect coin of Tacitus, having on the reverse a figure with scales ; the circumscription, *Æquitas Aug.* But the most singular discovery, and which may afford matter for antiquarian ingenuity, is an arrangement of small cells, about 4 feet beneath the surface, formed by a number of red tile columns, about a foot square. This is about 80 yards from the pavements, and has hitherto been cleared only to a small extent. Previous to the discovery of the pavements, a large excavation in the solid chalk was cleared away, about 13 feet in depth, entirely filled with mortar, rubbish, tiles, bones of great variety of animals, earthenware, etc. Among the last the fragments of a small vase have been found, sufficient to give the entire form. The excavations are about a mile from the village of Bramdean, near Alresford, on the manor of Woodcote. Tradition having long marked out Bramdean as the site of a palace of Alfred, and the broken ground and tiles on the surface of the fields indicating some ancient building, some gentlemen of Mr. Greenwood's family commenced by themselves a search on the 2nd June, and the shepherd having, on the following day, pointed out a place which seemed to sound hollow beneath the crowbar, the large vault was found. In the endeavour to extend the discoveries Mr. Morgan, the tenant of the fields, struck on a wall on the 4th June, at the bottom of which the first pavement was found.

[1824, *Part II.*, pp. 100, 101.]

On a journey through Hampshire I was informed of the late discovery of a Roman villa at Bramdean, near Alresford in that county, and my curiosity led me to visit the spot where this discovery was made.

The spot selected for this villa was such as the Romans usually chose for their villas and stations, viz., a gentle elevation, not an elevated hill. This appears to have been a distinguished villa, not a station ; for I could not hear of any agger or circumvallation, which generally accompanied the latter. The villas of the Romans were never on a very large scale, and their apartments were of small dimensions ; of these, two only merit our attention, which were decorated with rich tessellated floors, and in a tolerable state of preservation.

The first that meets our eye is of a square form, within which is an octagon divided into eight compartments, with a central one. This consists of a circle, enclosed within which are two intersecting squares, containing a head of Medusa. The eight compartments are each decorated with the half-length figures of the following deities, viz., Venus with her glass ; Mars in armour, with his lance ; Mercury with his caduceus ; Neptune with his trident ; Æsculapius with his serpent ; Diana with her crescent. The two other panels are defaced, and we may suppose they were supplied by Jupiter and Juno.



The second pavement is still more interesting, and of better workmanship. The central panel represents three figures, and the well-known fable of Hercules and Antæus; the former is in the attitude of lifting the latter from the ground, and squeezing him to death. He appears to be bringing him before a female sitting figure. Besides the above medallion in the centre, there are four busts larger than life, three of which are perfect. Other panels are decorated with dolphins and vases.

I must notice another peculiarity in this last room; viz., the flue-bricks by which the apartment was heated, which still remain in their original situation; and beneath is an arch, which led to the place where the heat was raised.

The outward buildings annexed to this villa are extensive, the walls badly built with flint, large Roman tiles, etc., and at the extremity of the parts already discovered there is a very perfect little sudatory, with its flues, in their original situation; and it is supposed that the foundations of buildings are still more extensive.

No inscriptions have as yet been found, and the coins are all of the Lower Empire.

Great praise is due to the proprietor, William Greenwood, Esq., of Brookwood, for the care he has shown for the preservation of these valuable relicks, by covering them with a substantial building; otherwise the finest of the pavements which suffered from the wet season of last year would have probably been entirely demolished.

VIATOR.

BROUGHTON.

[1783, *Part II.*, p. 935.]

The pig of lead\* was found on the verge of Broughton Brook, near Stockbridge, Hants, on the Houghton side of the water, August 11, 1783. It weighs near 156 lb., and is now in the possession of Thomas South, Esq., of Bossington in the said county, who having very obligingly favoured me with a copy of the inscription thereon, of which the letters are as perfect as when they first came out of the mould, I send it you for your miscellany, and hope the learned antiquaries may be induced to give the public an explanation thereof.

Y. Z.

Having communicated this to one of our antiquarian correspondents, we had the pleasure to find he had received a copy of it, somewhat different, from the Rev. Mr. Price, of Oxford, with the same view of obtaining an explanation.—Our correspondent has accordingly favoured us with the following: [Huebner, p. 222]

NERONIS AUGUSTI EX KEANGIS [KALENDIS JANUARIIS] IIII CONSULIS  
BRITANNICI.

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\* Engraved in our miscellaneous plate, figs. 7 and 8.

I read the inscription on this eighth\* pig of lead cast by the Romans in Britain, and discovered in the course of two centuries, thus :

The fourth Consulship of Nero falls A.U.C. 813, A.D. 60, when he had for his colleague Cornelius Cossus, as Tacitus† calls him ; or as the “Fasti Consulares,” published by Almeloveen,‡ Cossus Cornelius Lentulus ; and in an Insc. Grut. cxviii. GOSSO LENTVLO COSSI FILIO cos., also viii. 5.

[1784, *Part I.*, p. 85.]

When I sent you a copy of the inscription on a pig of lead, lately found at or near Bossington, Hampshire, which is situated very near to, if not upon, the Roman way leading from Old Sarum to Winchester, I did not add a word of my own as to the meaning of it, because I conceived that the first line was too plain to be misunderstood by anyone, and the last too obscure to be made out satisfactorily by me ; but it seems that I was mistaken in the first particular. The reading of the first line I thought must be, “NERONIS AVgusti EX KaLendis AVgusti IIII Consulis BRITannici. Of this common form of expressing the time (if not the usual one) of the consul’s entering on his office, there are 50 or 100 instances in the list of consuls at the end of the later editions of Ainsworth’s Dictionary. It should, however, be mentioned that Pighius makes Nero the consul with Cossus Cornelius Lentulus for the former months, and to have been succeeded ex kal. Jul. by somebody, but who the person was he doth not know.

#### ROPLEY.

[1843, *Part II.*, p. 420.]

A piece of gold of twisted workmanship, said to be worth for old gold £20, has been found by a farm-servant ploughing a field belonging to Mr. H. Lillywhite, of Ropley, Hampshire. It is supposed to be a collar worn by the Romans, is of very neat workmanship, in a good state of preservation, and is now in the possession of the Rev. S. Maddock, Vicar of Ropley.

#### THRUXTON.

[1823, *Part I.*, p. 452.]

As a man was lately employed in digging stone on the manor of H. Noyes, Esq., of Thruxton, a most curious and beautiful Roman tessellated pavement was discovered, about two feet under the surface

\* The two first are described by Mr. Camden in Cheshire, “Brit.,” p. 463, ed. 1607. The third near Bruton in Somersetshire (Horsl. “Brit. Rom.,” p. 328 ; Stuk. “It. Cur.,” l. 143). The fourth and fifth, 1734, found in Yorkshire (Phil. Trans., No. 459, and vol. xlix., p. 686) ; one of which is now in Brit. Mus. (Archæol., v. 370) ; the other at Ripley Hall, the seat of Mr. John Ingoldsby (Pennant’s “Wales”). The sixth on Hint’s Common, co. Stafford, 1772 (*Gent. Mag.*, xlii. 558 ; xliii. 61). [See Note 14.] The seventh on Cromford-on-the-Moor, co. Derby, illustrated by Mr. Pegge (Archæol., v. 369).

† “Ann.,” xiv. 20.

‡ P. 75.

of the earth. The pavement is about 18 feet square, and displays, in a state of excellent preservation, a fine specimen of mosaic masonry, consisting of small bricks and pieces of limestone, from  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to 2 inches square, variously interspersed, and exhibiting figures beautifully shaded. In the centre is a figure, probably of Bacchus, with the skin of a wild beast thrown over his shoulders, and the foot of the skin hanging over the right breast; the right arm is extended, holding a goblet; and on his left arm rests a spear, the point of which terminates over the head of a fine leopard resting at his feet. The figure, as well as the teeth and eyes of the animal, have great effect. There are also two oak branches, the leaves of which show great delicacy of shading. It is deemed necessary (lest the pavement should sustain injury) to preclude it from inspection for the present. When properly protected, we understand immediate notice will be given to the public.

[1823, *p.* 559.]

The Roman tessellated pavement lately discovered at Thruxton, near Andover (noticed in page 452), is not far distant from the Roman road leading from Sorbiodunum to Calleva. It bears the following inscription :

QVINTVS NATALIVS NATALINVS ET BODENI.

We are happy to learn that every possible care is taken by its owner, H. Noyes, Esq., to preserve it from dilapidation. A male and female skeleton, with small coins, have been found in digging amongst the old foundations. And further investigation is making.

[1823, *Part II.*, *pp.* 229, 230.]

I take the liberty of sending you a hasty sketch of an elegant candelabrum of Roman workmanship in *terra cotta*, lately discovered at Thruxton, in Hampshire, among the ruins of a temple supposed to have been dedicated to Bacchus. The candelabrum was not cast in relief or chased, but it appears to have been ornamented with various colours in imitation of relief, with white circles round the edges, etc. Height,  $5\frac{1}{8}$  inches; diameter of the base, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

J. I.

[1823, *Part II.*, *p.* 230.]

Curiosity induced me last week to visit the Roman pavement at Thruxton, which was announced some time ago in your magazine,\* and I was highly gratified with the inspection of it—for though small in its proportions, and consisting only of one room, it is truly deserving the notice of every lover of Roman antiquity. It is still in a very perfect state, excepting at one corner. It consists of the usual arabesques, with the figure of Bacchus riding on a leopard or tiger

\* See Part I., p. 452.



in the centre compartment ; in another circle are four small heads, with arabesques between them, and at the lower corners are four heads of a larger size. But the most interesting part of this pavement is the inscription at its top, which is as perfect as at the day it was formed : "QUINTVS NATALIVS NATALINVS ET BODENI." There was another inscription at the bottom, the loss of which we must regret, as it probably contained the dedication, and would have thrown great light upon the work. The letters are singular in their form, and parti-coloured. As this pavement was probably constructed during the Lower Empire of the Romans, we are at a loss to find out the names of those who constructed it, or its date. The coins found on the spot are chiefly of the Constantines. On the northern side of this villa was the cemetery, where five skeletons have been discovered, one of which had its legs *crossed*—a singular circumstance.

The owner of the field, Mr. Noyes, of Thruxton, has paid every attention to its preservation, by erecting, at a considerable expense, a wall of brick and flint around it, besides a substantial covering within the area, and has also had a beautiful and correct drawing made of the pavement, on a large scale, by Mr. Lickman, of Andover, which I hope he will publish in lithography, on a reduced scale, to gratify the public.

These relics are situated in a field at a short distance from the turnpike road between Andover and Amesbury, and accessible to carriages. I am informed that Mr. Noyes will keep the pavement open till November, when it will be covered again with soil to protect it from the winter's frost.

R. C. H.

#### SILCHESTER.

[1774, *p.* 512.]

Figs. I. and II. were found at Cilchester (*sic*) in Hants, and are judged to be great curiosities.

[1833, *Part I.*, *pp.* 122-125.]

. . . . When Silchester was laid waste, there is little doubt but its unfortunate inhabitants incurred the same fate as those of Caer-Andred. The tradition of the country-people is that it was burnt by means of wildfire attached to the tails of sparrows ; the roofs of the dwellings, being principally of thatch, readily ignited. For sparrows we have but to read fire-arrows, and the substance of the tradition may be true ; at any rate we may conclude that fire destroyed the dwellings, while the sword cut short the lives of the miserable Segontians.

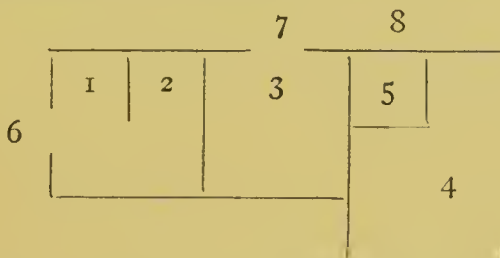
No favourable circumstances of site, either for commerce or for a monastic community, induced the more civilized descendants of these marauders to rebuild Silchester. The area of the city was

gradually cleared for cultivation; a small hamlet was formed without the walls by the tillers of the soil, and a little Christian church replaced the lofty heathen temples of Vindomis or Calleva.

Often as the soil of Silchester has been turned over by the share, not a ploughing occurs in the successive seasons but some relics of its civic importance continue to be found: coins, inscriptions, *penates* of bronze, are taken from the furrows; particularly "little images," as a rustic of Silchester recently told an antiquarian visitor. Twenty-five years since, when I myself was at Silchester, the occupant of the farm showed me a beautiful gold coin of Domitian, some key-rings of bronze, and other articles, which he had obtained from the fields. In the farmyard, which is placed just within the eastern entrance, lay two or three fragments of large stone columns.

Few or none of the discoveries at Silchester have been more interesting than that which has recently been prosecuted by the zeal of the Rev. John Coles, the vicar of the parish, of which the following is a brief account. About the beginning of the present month some labourers employed in cutting a drain in the nine-acre field, within the walls of Silchester, and about two hundred yards to the south-westward of the church, struck upon some foundations of Roman buildings. The Rev. Mr. Coles being informed of the circumstance, obtained permission of Mr. Burton, the farmer, to prosecute the discovery, which he liberally did at his own expense, and inserted a letter in the *Reading Mercury*, of the 11th of February, to call the public attention to the matter.

In a short time the foundations of a large building, upwards of 80 feet in length, probably the *Thermæ*, or public hot-baths of the city, were revealed. The annexed lines will show the general disposition of the rooms of this edifice:



Nos. 1, 2, 3 were apartments, the dimensions of which I derive from a neat lithographic plan presented to me by Mr. Coles, and from the information of John Bruce, Esq., F.S.A.: No. 1—11 feet 8 inches by 25 feet; No. 2—12 feet 9 inches by 25 feet; No. 3—19 feet by 25 feet. These were hypocausts, or sudatory apartments, the floors of which stood upon numerous round and square pillars of Roman brick, each about 3 feet 4 inches in height. The walls were 3 feet thick. The easternmost chamber is No. 1: the floor of this room had been supported by seven ranges of pillars, seven in a

row; the three first rows from the east were circular, the remainder square. The diameter of the pillars, 9 inches; they stood on a plinth formed of a single tile of larger dimensions. The apertures, 6 and 7, afforded a brisk draught to the præfurnium or furnace, and heat was thus diffused all over the floor of the sweating-rooms, and to the general volume of air by the flue-tiles placed as pipes, perforated with holes, in ranges against the walls.\* The floor was composed of large square tiles, on which, in a bed of cement, was probably laid a tessellated pavement. 5 was undoubtedly the natatio, or water-bath; here, at figure 8, was a leaden pipe inserted in a tile, having a triangular aperture, through which the element was supplied. 4 was probably the apodyterium, or frigidarium, the ante-room, where the bathers undressed, as 3 was the media cella, or tepidarium, where they were shampooed (to adapt a term in modern use) by the strigils of the *aliptæ* or *unctores*. See the highly interesting plan of an ancient bath in the island of Lipari, communicated by Captain Smythe to the "*Archæologia*," in the arrangements of which, and of the Silchester Thermæ, there is a most remarkable conformity.† The ante-room was paved with large square tiles, surrounded by a border of tesserae, each an inch square. A quantity of fractured window-glass, full of air-bubbles, and having a coarse surface, somewhat resembling the graining of wood, was found on the spot. Such a substance must have been peculiarly necessary in the sudatories, as light would be transmitted, while the cold external air was excluded.

But the most curious circumstance of the discovery is yet to be detailed; in the natatio, or water-bath, was found a human skeleton, and in the leaden pipe connected with it, upwards of two hundred Roman coins. The body could never have been deposited in such a spot in the ordinary mode of sepulture. What, then, is the obvious inference? When Silchester was stormed, one of its inhabitants had sought refuge in this place, hastily throwing his treasure,‡ for concealment, into the bath; here he fell by the Saxon sword, or was crushed under the falling ruins of the building; a faithful dog, whose skull was discovered near him, had shared his fate.

Yours, etc. A. J. K.

\* See a good specimen of these flue-tiles in the illustrations of the Roman antiquities found near London Bridge.—"*Archæologia*," vol. xxiv., plate 45, p. 202.

† "*Archæologia*," vol. xxiii., p. 98.

‡ I have not yet ascertained one important point—the period of these coins—as I was unfortunately unable to repair to the spot while the excavation was in progress. They were, I believe, chiefly of brass. A small sum was paid for admission to the public baths; perhaps the individual whose remains were discovered had been the balneator, or bath-keeper, and the money secreted was the stock of his receipts. I am promised, by the politeness of the Rev. Mr. Coles, to be furnished, at a future time, with particulars of the excavation.



[1841, *Part II.*, p. 353.]

During a short visit at Stratfieldsaye, I spent a few hours at the Roman camp at Silchester, and examined several parts of it. I found a small upper fragment of a capital of a column, which appeared to be of the Composite Order (having only four volutes instead of eight). The lower part was probably formed as represented by the dotted lines (see Plate, fig. 1). The corners of the abacus being broken, it is not easy to say whether they had volutes or the ends of leaves. From the difficulty of getting large blocks of stones, the capitals were most likely formed of two, if not three pieces of stone. On the upper part appeared to be a rude imitation of the egg ornament. The situation where this capital was found is near the south hedge of the lane which divides the middle of the camp, at the corner of the third street from the farm, leading to the Forum.

The Roman walls at Silchester are built of flints, with bonds of thin ragstones, and not with burnt bricks as in other places; and indeed the Romans, in all their works, used the materials of the country: but in the *roofs* of their houses better materials than ragstones were of course required, and fragments of brick-tiles may still be found in the fields.

There is a fragment of the shaft of a column with a part of its base near the farm-house. Another fragment of a base is used as a headstone to a grave.

Among several specimens of antiquities, there is a small ornament with four pieces of enamel, which reminds me of the instrument found in Cherry Garden Lane, near Chelmsford (see *Gentleman's Magazine* for September, 1840, p. 258). [Ante, pp. 71, 72.]

The shortness of my visit would not allow of my exploring the south walls of the camp. Sir R. Hoare mentioned the stones being laid herring-bone fashion. The parts of the walls I saw on the north side, near the amphitheatre, were in horizontal courses.

Yours, etc. JOHN ADEY REPTON.

[1863, *Part II.*, pp. 490, 491.]

There are few places more interesting to the archæologist than the ancient "city" of Silchester—the name of "city" is still religiously preserved to its deserted site by the neighbouring inhabitants of the district. As the capital of Cunobelin (the Cymbeline of Shakespeare), and containing an equal area to that of Roman London, and surrounded on all sides by its Roman wall; being also the centre of several Roman roads, one of which at least—the Portway—is well known and tolerably perfect, one is inclined to wonder that it is not more known and visited. Add to this that Silchester is as yet an almost unknown mine of archæological wealth. For hitherto both landlord and tenant have kept at bay all prying antiquaries. The late owner is reported to have advised one who proposed to search

for the Roman remains which are still awaiting the spade of the excavator, that "he had better go to Rome, where he might find much finer remains." May we not hope that the present noble landlord will be found more accommodating than the "Iron Duke?"

The position of Silchester is remarkably beautiful. The city occupies the highest ground in the neighbourhood, overlooking a richly wooded country; and though so elevated, the approaches on all sides are easy and gradual. It is readily reached from the Mortimer Station of the Basingstoke and Reading line. After leaving the station, a pleasant walk of two and a half miles brings us to the city walls at the north-east corner. The church of Silchester, which is close by, is in no small degree interesting to the lover of mediæval architecture. The city wall is the eastern boundary of the churchyard. Close by, in the farmyard, is a large Corinthian capital. The amphitheatre is near at hand, outside the walls. In different places are a few fragments of circular columns, and on the south side of the main street (now the farm road) is a large mass of masonry, evidently belonging to one of the public buildings of the city. The position of the streets may be distinctly traced in dry weather, especially after harvest, crossing each other at right angles. The position of the gateways also can be made out. But the city wall is the great glory of Silchester, being very perfect on all sides. It is remarkable that in a district where no stone is found, and where plenty of clay is to be had, this wall is entirely of stone, without the usual concomitant of Roman tiles. Flat stones are used in the manner of tiles throughout.

Perhaps the mention of these details may move some of your readers to visit, and attempt a thorough exploration of this rare remain of the Roman times. What I have mentioned above is well known to all who have visited Silchester. But this is not all. It is not generally known that on the north-east and south-west of the city are extensive remains of important earthworks, consisting of a rampart and fosse. These works are so overgrown by underwood, that they are scarcely visible in a cursory view of the place; but a closer examination shows their magnitude and intention. It is very evident that they belonged to the earlier history of Silchester—to the capital of Cunobelin. The Romans fortified an irregular polygon, which may be included in a circle; but the older British city was of an oval form, with its greatest length from north-east to south-west. When the Romans built their wall to include the smaller area, it was necessary to destroy some of the British works, lest these should prove a shelter to a besieging force. And thus we now find the older earthworks in greatest perfection where they are furthest removed from the Roman wall; but as they approach it, the bank is levelled and the ditch filled up.

These earthworks never seem to have been noticed as they



deserve. I believe that the Archæological Association took no notice of them when they visited Silchester from Newbury. Nor does the Ordnance Map recognise them in any way. In passing, I may remark that the Ordnance survey of this locality seems to have been done too carelessly. Thus *Galley Hill* is made into *Curley Hill*; and the northern boundary of Hants lies nearly half a mile farther to the north where it approaches Silchester than is represented in the Ordnance Map.

I am, etc. W. G.

[1865, *Part II.*, pp. 297, 298.]

The Rev. J. G. Joyce is proceeding successfully with excavations in what was once the city or town of Calleva. The Duke of Wellington not only defrays the cost of, but he also takes a warm interest in, the proceedings, and cordially affords that cheering countenance which is so valuable in investigations which necessarily involve considerable expense, and which do not always lead promptly to discoveries apparently important.

The foundations of three houses have been laid open. Each of these houses was of considerable size, the rooms, though generally small, being numerous. They are situated at the angles of what were narrow streets. The floorings of the houses are usually of coarse tessellated work; but one is of finer materials, and laid in elegant patterns. As has been stated in your last number, it bears in parts resemblance to that of the villa at Carisbrooke, and to one found in London. One room is laid in hexagonal tiles, the interstices being filled up with coarse tesserae. The floorings of the passages, corridors, and indeed of most of the apartments, are composed wholly of coarse red, white, and black tesserae. The remains of hypocausts show that, as usual, the Roman houses were constructed with a view to ensure warmth, which could be admirably regulated to any requisite degree. The flue-tiles also prove that the heat was carried up the walls. In one apartment these are *in situ*.

The general view of the houses is very interesting, as the eye surveys at once the full extent of the excavations and almost the whole of the rooms, their arrangement, and the narrow streets. This is not often the case in such excavations, on account of the depth of accumulated soil; but at Silchester the foundations are scarcely a foot beneath the surface. From the excavations, also, a good notion may be formed of the extent of the town; and from the compact character of what has yet been found, it may be judged that the town is as yet but entered upon, and that the public buildings will probably be discovered more towards the centre of the vast area.

One remarkable feature in these remains is that of their pointing to two distinct epochs; and I presume this characteristic will prevail throughout the future discoveries. It explains clearly much that at



the first glance is rather puzzling. In the Roman times, then, Calleva must have encountered some great calamity, and possibly may have been partially, if not wholly destroyed. Subsequently it was restored, and the marks of restoration are everywhere visible, in the walls, in the floorings, and in the re-arrangements of the interiors of the houses. All of the reparations bear evidence of haste, and of very inferior workmanship; the reconstructed parts of the walls are, moreover, so very badly built, and with mortar so extremely weak, as to raise a question whether they can possibly be the work of Roman masons.

C. ROACH SMITH.

[1866, *Part II.*, pp. 467, 468.]

A recent visit to the excavations at Silchester has confirmed my opinion on the growing interest of the discoveries, and on the importance of the remains now being brought to light. Mr. Joyce is now laying open the Forum, as mentioned in my notes of last month. Here, I think, were found the capitals and portions of shafts of columns, some of which may yet be seen near the farmhouse, and, if I mistake not, in the churchyard; and although the walls of the Forum have not yet been denuded, some fragments of architecture have been found, which seem to indicate a colonnade. The floors and foundations of dwelling-houses, on the opposite side of the modern road which passes through the site of the ancient town, now present a very imposing and impressive sight. Standing upon the mounds of earth thrown up out of the houses, the spectator can view the entire extent, with the lines of streets; and with a little study, understand much of what may at first seem puzzling and confused. He will comprehend restorations and adaptations which followed the destruction of the original buildings; and see that walls have crossed over the pavements of rooms, that doorways have been blocked up, and much of the first plan altered to suit new circumstances. Mr. Joyce believes he can trace here and there evidences of a second restoration.

One of the houses excavated since my former visit presents a somewhat novel construction of the hypocaust and the substructure for heating. Instead of columns of tiles, as is usual, the ground has been cut into channels radiating from the centre, and then perforated and faced with tiles in a very ingenious and effective manner. Fortunately Mr. Joyce is an able draughtsman, and he has made excellent plans and drawings, which, at no remote period, it is to be hoped, he may be induced to publish. One of the best of the tessellated pavements discovered last year has been removed most successfully, and laid down in the entrance-hall of Stratfieldsaye House, where its elegant and chaste design shows to great advantage, secure from the possibility of injury. I had also the advantage of inspecting, under Mr. Joyce's hospitable roof, the numerous minor

objects of art discovered, including the coins, which will, no doubt, in due time, receive full justice at his hands.

C. ROACH SMITH.

[1866, *Part II.*, pp. 776, 777.]

The attention of your readers having been called by Mr. Roach Smith to the excavations which are now being carried on at Silchester, it may gratify some of them to have through your pages an account of the most interesting and important relic which has hitherto been found there.

A search for the outer walls of the Forum was commenced on July 9th last, and soon proved successful. The circuit of the building was so extensive that it has occupied a very considerable time to trace it completely round, and to lay open the entire summit of the exterior masonry which remains. It was not till September 3rd, that a commencement was made in excavating the interior, when the ground was broached at the south-west corner. An ambulatory, which probably surrounded the edifice on all its sides, was first entered next the exterior walls. Within this (at the south-west angle) is a room of considerable size, in which, at a depth of 14 inches below the surface of the field, was a deep layer of charred wood, 10 to 12 inches thick, and below it a stratum of mortar, concrete, and broken pavement, with fragments of flanged tiles. This stratum was about 6 inches in thickness, and lay above a thinner seam of burnt wood, which is lost as you approach the walls of the chamber. Under this second seam of wood is a bed of mortar or lime mixed with gravel, which rests upon the natural gravel-bed of the country.

On October 9th, whilst clearing away the stratum of mortar and concrete, and immediately underneath the thick layer of charred wood, a very beautiful Roman eagle was found. The execution of this most valuable bronze is unusually good, every feather having been individually finished with a tool in the most careful manner. Its condition is excellent, for it has undergone no injury of the slightest kind beyond the violence it suffered originally when wrenched from the staff on which it stood. The wings were gilt, with the tips probably erect over the back; but they have been torn away from the socket to which they were fitted. On one remaining wing-feather on the right side, the gilding is still quite evident. The talons grasped a globe, being attached by the claws, which were rent away from the feet when the bird was removed from its place. It measures 9 inches from the centre of the curve of the upper mandible to the tip of the tail. Many other curious relics have been discovered near it. The coins of the Forum range through every period of the Roman occupation, from Vespasian—Cos. III. (A.D. 69-70) to the time of Gratian.

I am, etc. J. G. JOYCE, F.S.A., etc.

## WINCHESTER.

[1838, *Part II.*, pp. 371, 372.]

The deep excavations in the chalk hill on the north-west of the city of Winchester, made for the London and Southampton Railway, have enriched the collections of the antiquaries residing there with many elegant specimens of Roman art, sketches of some of which, by the kind permission of the proprietors and the assistance of a young artist (Mr. Bracewell), I am enabled herewith to send you.

The bronze head (figs. 1, 2, reduced to one-third of the original size) is of the best workmanship, and extremely well preserved; and, together with its mutilated companion (fig. 3, size of original), was found about 40 yards north of the Romsey turnpike, 3 feet beneath the surface, near a foundation or substratum of pavement, and adjoining some sepultured remains. Both must be assigned, I think, to Hercules. The smaller image has evidently been disfigured by the action of fire, which has so distorted the limbs as to render its identity almost questionable, did not the back view of the original figure present the club and lion's skin very clearly defined.

My friend Mr. W. B. Bradfield informs me that on the east bank of the railroad the substratum, composed of flints and hard mortar, and 3 feet thick, extended full 30 feet westward, but was broken up, together with the pavements which it had supported. Close to the remains yet visible on the eastern bank were found three stones, standing in the chalk north, south and west, about 2 feet in height, and two others on the top of these, cramped firmly together with iron. On removing these stones were discovered four large brass coins, of Trajan, M. Aurelius, Faustina the younger, and a middle brass of Vespasian. Touching the stone standing on the north side was a wide-mouth urn of a coarse reddish pottery, and in the vicinity of the spot from time to time were found fibulæ, fragments of pottery, and Roman Imperial coins, extending, with intermissions, from Claudius to Honorius and Arcadius.

From the specimens of tessellæ which have been preserved, and the extent of the pavement, there can be but little doubt of a suburban building of some considerable dimensions having stood on this site, and we can only regret that opportunities had not been earlier afforded to such as would have been able and willing to notice and record discoveries contributing so essentially towards a knowledge of the ancient topography of the country. The stones were, doubtless, erected to preserve some funeral remains, and it is by no means improbable that the little sepulchre had been previously opened and its contents pillaged. In Guthrie's "*Tour through the Taurida*" is an engraving of a Roman sepulchre, constructed in a similar manner, which contained human skeletons etc.



Throughout the line of excavation, at Winchester, particularly opposite the barracks, were many pits, sunk in the chalk to a very considerable depth, varying from 30 to 40 feet. The mould in these was of a rich black kind, and impregnated largely with bones and other animal matter, intermixed with fragments of pottery, and occasionally a perfect vase. Very little, however, of the Samian has been observed.

The bronze figures, together with the fibula (which has been silvered), are in the possession of W. B. Bradfield, Esq., of Winchester.

The earthen pot (*see sketch*) is in the possession of J. Newington Hughes, Esq., of Winchester. It is of a dark red or brown colour; the ornaments are raised, and, being painted white, present a pleasing contrast to the ground-work.

The four coins referred to above are thus described :

1. Obv. . . . . Trajano Aug. Ger. Dac.—Rev. obliterated. S. C. A female seated, holding a branch in right hand and cornucopiæ in left.
2. Obv. Aurelius Cæsar Aug. Pii Fil.—Rev. Pietas Aug. S. C. Sacrificial instruments.
3. Obv. M. Antoninus Aug. T.R.P. xxvi.—Rev. Legend illegible. S. C. Victory holding a standard.
4. Obv. Faustina Aug. Antonini Aug. Pii Fil.—Rev. A figure of Venus.

Yours, etc. CHARLES ROACH SMITH.

[1838, *Part II.*, pp. 611, 612.]

The extensive labour in the formation of the London and Southampton Railway being now so nearly completed here as to preclude the hope of further Roman discoveries, I am induced to communicate to you some particulars of those which have come within my observation.

The present Romsey turnpike is described by Milner, in his “History of Winchester,” as the Roman road to Old Sarum, through the intermediate station at Broughton.

Distinguished as there is every reason to believe this city was, it can scarcely be matter of surprise that in the vicinity of this road many remains of the Roman era should be discovered.

Along the whole distance in front of the King’s house (now the barracks), little was seen requiring particular notice, with the exception of the pits, described by your able correspondent Mr. C. R. Smith, in the October magazine, p. 372 ; and these, from their number and contents, would lead to the supposition that at some distant period the spot had been fully inhabited. The labour in sinking them through the solid masses of chalk must have been very great.

Proceeding northwards, abundant evidence was obtained, by the discovery of extensive flint foundations, scattered tessellæ, and

various other remains, to prove it a site of considerable importance. Besides the antiquities given in your plate were several fibulæ, vase handles beautifully modelled, spear and arrow heads, and a variety of minor objects in bronze. Pottery of all kinds, some urns—two in my possession—perfect, which, from the close resemblance to those found here a few years ago, in ranges of sepulchres,\* may be presumed to be of a funereal character; and vases of various shapes and fineness of workmanship and material, now in the hands of gentlemen in the neighbourhood. The fragment of a vessel represented in the annexed engraving is not the least extraordinary of the number.

I am not aware of the finding of a single gold coin, or many in silver; but in brass they were very numerous, generally in fair preservation—those of the Lower Empire much predominating.

I feel strongly impressed with the opinion that were the excavations continued, especially on the west side of the railway, further discoveries would be made to reward the labour of the search. Imperial coins are certainly often found in that direction.

W. B. B.

[1839, *Part I.*, p. 301.]

On levelling the ground at the back of the new Corn Exchange, Winchester, a small earthen vase was lately discovered under a stone, about 5 feet from the surface, embedded in earth or clay, surrounded by flints and lumps of chalk. Some charcoal or burnt wood was also noticed; and a few Roman coins had been previously found in the vicinity. The stone is of a soft kind, about 18 inches long, 9 inches wide, and 6 inches thick, on removing which the vase appeared, placed upright, and full of earth. It is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height, 4 inches at the largest part, and about 2 inches at the top and bottom, composed of a reddish brown pottery, tolerably fine and smooth. Several holes or pits were seen, similar to those described in our magazine for October last, found opposite the King's House, now the barracks; and at about 50 feet towards the north, a foundation, more than 3 feet thick, of flints and hard mortar, ran east and west a considerable distance; some of the remains, probably, of the royal palace, which being burnt with a large portion of the city during the civil wars of Stephen's reign, was rebuilt by Henry II., and in which it is recorded he made a bower upon the plan of that he contrived for his mistress, Rosamond, at Woodstock.

[1839, *Part I.*, p. 531.]

In communicating, last October, a short account of the Roman

\* Engraved in Milner's "History of Winchester," miscellaneous plate, vol. i., p. 374.

antiquities exhumed on the course of the London and Southampton Railroad, through the western suburbs of Winchester, I mentioned the appearance of many deep pits, containing rubbish, bones, ashes, etc., indicating that the spot had once been fully inhabited, and this opinion has been much strengthened by my observations during the past month. A sale having taken place of the remaining portion of the field used for the exercise of the garrison, preparations were commenced for the erection of buildings. The labourers engaged in sinking a well fortunately struck on the site of an ancient one, which passed through the bed of chalk to 130 feet, when the water appeared, but it had formerly been deeper. The contents consisted of earth, mostly of a light colour, burnt wood, numerous bones, oyster-shells, and fragments of Roman pottery of various kinds, and, at about 50 feet from the surface, a coin in the second brass of Antoninus Pius, in excellent preservation; Reverse, LIBERTAS. COS. IIII. That the well is of considerable antiquity will not, I conceive, admit of doubt; but whether so early as the Roman era, those more conversant with the subject may be enabled to form a correct opinion. It certainly seems highly probable, from its immediate vicinity to the road of that age, leading to Old Sarum, on a gentle elevation, the site, I believe, usually selected for their villas, the remains of one, or a building of some kind, being already found, only a few yards distant, with denarii of Trajan and Antoninus, a bronze pin for the hair, Samian and other pottery, sufficient to encourage the hope that, as the excavations extend, other objects of interest may be discovered. The only potter's name perfect on the Samian ware is OFF VERI, and a portion of another, CINT, the letter N reversed.

W. B. B.

[1840, *Part II.*, p. 414.]

Some workmen engaged, on the 2nd of September, in cutting a road into the parade field, west of the barracks, close to the Roman Way leading to Old Sarum (Sorbiodunum), found a bronze vase, but so injured by corrosion that it fell to pieces on being removed. It appeared to have been quite plain, of an oval shape, about 9 inches by 8 inches, and 3 inches deep, and was embedded at a considerable depth, with fragments of Samian and other pottery, in loam, mixed with very small pieces of chalk, burnt wood, and bones. Foundations of flints, chalk and hard mortar, a few denarii and large brass of Trajan, Hadrian, and Antoninus, with many small brass of later Emperors, having been found near there a short time since, afford very strong evidence, combined with the present discovery, that the site was that of a suburban building of some extent and importance during the Roman occupation of the country.



[1840, *Part II.*, p. 644.]

The crowded state of the burial grounds attached to the parish churches of Winchester having long been complained of, and a strong desire entertained to discontinue interments within the city, a company was formed, and an Act obtained in the last Session of Parliament, to establish a general cemetery, which was consecrated by the Bishop on the 11th of November. The site fixed on consists of seven acres to the south-west of the city, known by the title of Chapel Hill, originating, probably, from its vicinity to the church dedicated to St. James, which formerly stood in the inclosure now used by the Roman Catholics for their interments, and held, so early as the Saxon times, as a place of great devotion.

The approach to it is through a narrow road, called St. James's Lane, noticed by the local historian, Milner, as that by which the monks of the Cathedral Priory and St. Grimbold's Abbey passed, especially on Palm Sunday, in solemn procession to the above church. The site, however, seems to possess claims of higher interest to the antiquary; for, on cutting away the southern bank to widen the road, a discovery was made which proves it, almost beyond a doubt, to have been a burial place of the Romans. Three small urns of coarse workmanship were first found together; then, at a short distance, two others, of a larger size, one measuring 3 feet in circumference, containing many pieces of human bones, some in a charred state, and ashes; and for a considerable distance skeletons were occasionally met with, laid without regularity or the slightest indication of a coffin. The soil in which they were deposited is a loam mixed with small stones and burnt wood, overlaying chalk, to which, perhaps, may be attributed the firm state of a few of the bones and one skull of very large dimensions; but they were generally in a decayed state. They extended considerably above 100 yards to the east and west, and run south into the adjoining pastures. One coin only was seen near the urns, a second brass of the usurper Magnentius; reverse, "Salus D.D. N.N. Aug. et Caes." The monogram of Christ between the letters alpha and omega.

A little further to the east, and about 100 yards from the present Southampton turnpike, are the remains of some ancient building, having walls of chalk 3 feet thick, nicely squared, and very hard mortar, evidently run in in a liquid state. The end walls are 36 feet apart, taking a circular direction to the south; and there is one cross wall. The walls were hidden some depth under the surface of the field. A short distance from them is a well filled up. A sanguine hope is indulged that the spot will be further examined.

The urns and coin are forwarded to a gentleman at Blandford, to whom I am indebted for the description of the coin; the urns I saw and examined immediately after they were found.

A denarius of Valens, in a very perfect state; reverse, "Urbs

Roma," Roma Victrix seated, was dug up a few days since near Hyde Abbey.  
W. B. B.

[1842, *Part I.*, p. 309.]

In forming a plantation on a piece of ground recently enclosed near Highfield Lodge, Winchester (not far from Hyde Abbey), many human bones were found, with vases of dark Roman pottery. One in a tolerably perfect condition, and well formed, had a small wavy white ornament, and in shape somewhat resembled that found in 1789 in Water Lane, and engraved in the miscellaneous Plate of Milner's "History of Winchester." Many human bones were taken up also on the erection of the above house; and in digging for cellars some years ago, at Hyde Abbey School, a whole range of Roman sepulchres, containing numerous urns, well-shaped and of excellent workmanship. These interments are in nearly a straight line, at a short distance from each other, and close to the road leading to Andover, which probably then commenced in Hyde Street, not far outside the city walls—the Romans, it is well known, strictly prohibiting the burning or burying a body within. It is to be regretted that in neither of these discoveries has a coin been found, to fix with precision the period of the deposit. The vases, etc., are now in the possession of W. Græme, Esq., on whose estate they were found.

[1843, *Part II.*, p. 131.]

In sinking the foundation for the purpose of enclosing a portion of a field, adjoining the residence of the Rev. Mr. Rashleigh, near Hyde Abbey, two skeletons were discovered, but at a considerable distance from each other. One, in a tolerably perfect condition, was lying quite straight, looking towards the east, and apparently that of a young person, of rather short stature. A musket bullet was found near the back. The other body may, with strong probability, be referred to a much earlier period. It appeared to have been hastily interred in the chalk, about 3 feet below the surface, and close to the hip bone were twelve small brass Roman coins, several of them adhering together, of the common types of the Emperors Valentinian, Valens, and Gratian. The site is at a very short distance from that noticed in your magazine for January, 1842, where several human bones and vases of dark pottery were found.  
W. B.

[1844, *Part II.*, p. 450.]

Some small cottages were erected near Water Lane, and in digging the foundations the workmen struck on several Roman sepulchres containing human bones, urns, and other remains of that period. \

## ISLE OF WIGHT.—CARISBROOKE.

[1859, *Part II.*, pp. 399, 400.]

We are indebted to the active exertions of Mr. W. Spickernell for the discovery and exhumation of a Roman villa, of considerable interest, at Carisbrooke. It is situated in the picturesque and fertile valley immediately below the well-known Castle to the east of the village. This district had long been looked upon by some of the antiquaries of the present day, who have paid attention to the antiquities of the island; and we understand that Mr. Hillier, who is engaged in printing a history of the Isle of Wight, contemplated excavating the site of Roman foundations further up the valley. The situation is in every respect favourable to the belief that it was chosen by the Romans for their chief settlement in the island; and Mr. Spickernell's discovery, we trust, may lead to further researches, not only on the site of this villa, but also in the meadows and fields contiguous. Mr. James, the vicar, we understand, has with great good nature consented to have the entire building excavated.

Sir,—From the great interest excited by the Roman villa at Carisbrooke, of which no account has yet, I believe, been published, a few particulars may, perhaps, interest your readers, and serve as a reply to the many inquiries that are constantly being made respecting it, and the manner of its discovery.

I first met with indications of the villa on the 28th of April last, when, observing workmen excavating for stables on the vicarage grounds, I walked down to see if anything might be turning up, induced to do so by having before found in Carisbrooke portions of a British urn and other relics of ancient burial; and I was, indeed, agreeably surprised by finding portions of Roman tiling, which had been thrown up by the workmen, its character being unknown to them.

I at once applied to the vicar, the Rev. E. B. James, for leave to make researches, which was readily granted, and every facility for search afforded me by all those in his employ.

Following, then, in the wake of the men, still digging for the foundations of the stables, a good quantity of broken pottery, etc., was collected, and finding some scattered tesserae, which gave indications of a pavement, I set a man to cut exploring trenches in several directions.

The first trench soon opened up a coarse tessellated pavement, forming a portion of what may have been a corridor of the building, another brought to light the bath, with its hypocaust, and following up these and other trenches, the villa, so far as it has yet been opened, was gradually disclosed. A detailed account, even of these portions



of the building, would require accompanying plans and a practised hand; but a few general features may be given, premising that some dimensions are given from memory, and that the remains have not been sufficiently explored to speak positively on many points, while some must be necessarily a matter of conjecture only.

The villa would appear to have covered a space of from 110 to 120 feet in length, and from 60 to 70 feet in width; but from slight indications of masonry in the adjoining lane this size may be increased.

The pavements are from 5 to 6 feet below the present level of the soil. Of this depth about 3 feet is composed of the chalk *débris* of the walling, etc., over which the 3 feet surface mould must have been brought and spread.

As to the arrangement of the building, a portion of the eastern side would seem to have formed a corridor of about 42 feet long by about 8 feet wide, leading to the atrium or central hall, about  $22\frac{1}{2}$  feet square, and the best apartment, which is on the north-eastern side, and about  $14\frac{1}{2}$  feet square.

Around two sides, at least, of the atrium—the north and west—apartments, probably dormitories, about 10 feet wide, with cement floors, appear to have been ranged.

Other walls have been met with in the cuttings; but as they have not been followed up, no idea of the apartments of which they form a part can be gained, though from the plain plastering on them, and the absence of tessellated pavement, the better portions of the villa would appear to have been those opened on the north-eastern side.

The bath, an interesting object, is near the south-western side, and is in good preservation. Its shape is semicircular, or nearly so; its length at the base  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and its height about 16 inches. When the flues under it were first opened, the soot of, say, sixteen centuries or so was adhering in large quantities to the tiles. These flues were traced under the adjoining stable, where they appear to have warmed a small apartment, the floor of which was gone, though very many of its tile supports were still remaining. The examinations were suspended before these flues could be traced to the furnace mouth, which may, however, have been destroyed by the first excavations of the workmen, or may yet be found in the adjoining lane.

To the south-east of the bath a kind of cement floor occupied a large space, probably the site of inferior offices, or, it may be, of a courtyard. Over this, the least interesting portion of the building, stables have been erected, leaving fortunately the far greater and better portion of the villa untouched.

Returning to the corridor and atrium, we find their pavements to consist of red brick tesserae, of about an inch square, roughly formed, and mostly laid on without any design. They appear to

have been chiefly made out of roofing-tiles, etc. At least, they bear portions of the same markings.

The walls remaining are about the same height—2 feet 8 inches, and are from 1 foot 9 inches to 2 feet 3 inches thick. On many parts of them the plastering is still perfect, whilst in the interior of the rooms a plaster moulding runs round the base of most of them.

It is, however, on the before-mentioned apartment, at the north-eastern angle of the building, that the chief care has been bestowed. It is about  $14\frac{1}{2}$  feet square, but rather singularly an angle of the atrium projects into its south-western corner to the extent of 4 feet square.

The pavement of this room needs a drawing to convey an idea of it. The borders, wide, but irregularly so, are of coarse red and white tesserae. The designs of the interior portion, consisting of parallelograms and other figures, with scrolled borders, enclosing the lotus-flower and leaves, are worked with finer tesserae, of a red, white, black, and blue colour; and are, I find, of a form often found in Roman pavements. Similar ones, amongst others, may be seen figured on the sketch of a pavement at Basildon, Berks, in one of the numbers of Mr. Roach Smith's "*Collectanea Antiqua*."\* In the centre is a handsome-shaped vase and flowers. From its hollow sound it has, probably, flues under it.

Whilst it cannot, I believe, be classed with the superior pavements at Cirencester, etc., it is, unlike some of those, in good preservation; and from the testimony of a most competent judge, Mr. Roach Smith, F.S.A., is a very interesting one. The plastering on one side of this apartment still remains. It is painted in panels; but many pieces were found amongst the rubbish on the floor, with leaves, flowers, and other figures on them. The colours—red, white, yellow, blue, green, etc.—were very bright when first removed, but have somewhat faded since.

The villa must have been covered with stone roofing-tiles (if I may so call them), of an angular shape, as these lie scattered everywhere, both whole and broken, many of them with the nails still in them.

The only flanged roofing-tiles that were found had been used for the bottom of the flues, leading to the bath.

Wood ashes, in small quantities, were found about most parts of the building—in some cases, though, amounting to two or three handfuls. Some portions of the pavements, too, show signs of fire, so that it was, at first, thought that the place may have been burnt down; but no charred wood of any size has been found, nor does the plastering appear to have suffered from fire.

Whatever may have caused its destruction, nearly everything appears to have been first removed from it, for nothing perfect or

\* Vol. i., pl. 24.

valuable has been found, though much that is interesting, amongst which are two coins (third brass), one illegible, the other a Posthumus in good condition; two bone hair-pins, two or three small bronze rings, blade of knife, hinges, various small iron articles, a few nails, eight or nine inches long, a quantity of roofing-nails, fragments of window and other glass, large quantity of *débris* of pottery of various kinds, though chiefly of a coarser sort; part of the upper stone of hand-mill, stone roofing-tiles, flanged earthen ditto, flue-tiles, painted plaster, etc.

Bones, too, of the deer, sheep, and other animals are abundant, as well as oyster and other shells. On two or three portions of antlers of the red deer, some marks are as fresh as when first made.

The articles I shall gladly deposit again at the villa, as it is important to keep the collection intact.

I have heard no decisive opinion as to what period of the Roman occupation the erection or destruction of the villa may probably be ascribed, but we know that Vespasian conquered the Isle of Wight in A.D. 43—that the coin found is the third century, and that the Saxons, under Cerdic, A.D. 530, made slaughter and havoc at Carisbrooke.

The villa will, I think, when fully uncovered, be found a very interesting one, though much inferior in size to some.

Apart, too, from any claim it has in itself, it derives a peculiar interest from its being the first Roman building that has been met with in the island. It settles, too, a point long contended for by the Rev. E. Kell, as to the Roman *occupation* of our island, and can but contribute to the elucidation of that period of its history.

Situated in a rich valley, under the very shadow of the Castle, it seems to point to a former connection with it, though the traces of any Roman occupation at the latter place are, I believe, few, if any. This building could hardly have stood alone. In the same valley, indeed, many have collected portions of Roman tiling a long time since; whilst coins, too, have been found there. . . .

WILLIAM SPICKERNELL.

COMBLY, I.W.

[1867, *Part I.*, pp. 791, 792.]

On the northern side of Arreton Down, in a very retired dell, and less known than most places in the island, lies Comby Farm. Backed by down land, and fronting one of the least populated and fertile spots, its aspect is somewhat triste and lonely. Upon this farm, in several spots, Mr. John Lock, jun., has found the vestiges of Roman buildings, a very significant fact in connection with other discoveries of a like character made of late years. When Sir Richard Worsley published his "*History of the Isle of Wight*," he had not a word to print on Roman remains. Now it is ascertained that there is scarcely a part of the island where there are not traces of settle-



ments. Very recently some Roman urns of large dimensions, but much injured from the wet clayey soil in which they were imbedded, were found at Swanmore, near Ryde, and are deposited in the museum of that town.

C. ROACH SMITH.

### Hertfordshire.

#### HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.

[1837, *Part II.*, p. 409.]

As the grave-digger was preparing a grave for the interment of a corpse in the burial-ground of Box Lane chapel at Hemel Hempstead, in a part of the ground not before used (at least in modern times) for the purpose of interments, he discovered at from 3 to 4 feet below the surface of the earth the following articles:—1st. A Roman vase, or urn, of a globular form, about 14 inches in height, and nearly 3 feet in circumference, composed of thick glass or talc, of a fine emerald hue, containing human bones. 2nd. A small earthen vase, or pitcher, of very ancient workmanship. 3rd. A metal stand (supposed for a lamp), part of it burnt as if by incense. 4th. Various ill-shaped nails, very much incrustated, lying around the above, as if they had been used for the purpose of fastening a chest or box together to secure the above articles. They are in the possession of Mr. Girton, of Hemel Hempstead.

#### HIGHWOOD HILL.

[1792, *Part I.*, pp. 429, 430.]

Being on a visit last Christmas at a friend's house, situate on the borders of Hertfordshire, and hearing by chance that some vestiges of a Roman camp or station were to be seen near a village in the neighbourhood, called Highwood Hill, about ten miles from town, I took an opportunity to ride that way; and at the end of a lane, about a quarter of a mile from the village, came to the spot, which certainly bears evident marks of undoubted antiquity. The site of it is now occupied by a gentleman's house and gardens, which, I suppose, may contain near two acres. I was prevented on this account inspecting it so narrowly as I could have wished; but could plainly discover that the whole was surrounded (except where modern improvement interfered) by a regular ditch of 30 feet wide, by at least 20 deep. I understand that other vestiges of works are still remembered by old inhabitants of the neighbourhood, but which are now laid down in pleasure-ground, etc.

One thing is certain, that there is no place in the whole country so well calculated for a work of this kind, being boldly situated on the very brow of the hill, having a commanding view of the country for

many miles in extent. The Roman road called Watling Street runs parallel to it (though at some distance), and is perceivable for some miles.

It is well known that Brockley Hill, in this neighbourhood, is mentioned in the Itinerary as one of the Roman stations, ten miles distance from London. Whether this situation comes under the description or not, is a question that perhaps some antiquary, more versed in these matters than myself, may take the trouble to elucidate, if you will have the goodness to insert this, which will oblige

A CONSTANT READER.

PERTON.

[1835, *Part I.*, pp. 305, 306.]

On the side of a gentle slope, not far distant from the village of Perton, situate about three miles north-west from Hitchin, some labourers employed in spade-husbandry recently turned up portions of human bones, but in a very broken state. Others were produced, which, exciting notice, caused a more careful examination, until, more or less, thirty skeletons were discovered, lying in two nearly parallel rows, about 5 yards apart. In one of these, containing about one-third of the number, they appear to have been carefully deposited with the head to the north-east, at about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  yards apart, and laid singly. In the other there were two, three, or four together in each grave, evidently placed with much less care, having been apparently thrown in. Some pains having been taken to examine one, it was ascertained to be without the head, and a very perfect skull lying between the bones of the legs: to what depth these deposits existed was not ascertained, the search not having been prosecuted; but it is probable, from the irregular way in which they were carelessly thrown into pits or graves, dug in a soil of a light and chalky character, they were carried deeper than 2 feet, very little beyond which has the present research gone. The number of skeletons found may, therefore, form but a small part of the whole: this, however, is mere conjecture.

It is somewhat remarkable they should not have been discovered at an earlier period, considering how very near the surface they were deposited, one not being deeper than 8 inches.

The spot where this discovery has taken place bears the name of Danes-field, and these relics were instantly attributed to the results of some contest between our ancestors and the Danes; but there appears to me some reason to doubt this position, from the great quantity of pottery found in the form of urns, containing ashes and portions of calcined bone. In some instances urns were found under the head, in others above; but so fragile were they, and the bones likewise, it was difficult to come to any conclusion about them. By scraping away the earth carefully with knives, we succeeded in laying

several of the skeletons quite bare, with the skull whole and perfect ; but even then, the least attempt to move any part occasioned it to fall to pieces, with the exception of the thigh bones and the pelvis, which might be procured tolerably perfect. In no instance could a skull be extricated ; as, however perfect they appeared, the slightest movement caused them to drop into many pieces.

The Ickniel Way, through Dunstable and Royston, passes within half a mile of this spot, and the neighbouring hills at the same distance, extending through the Midland Counties, are crowned with a number of interesting vestiges of Roman fortifications, one of which Camden notices as follows (it is somewhat more than two miles from the spot in question) : " Not far from hence is Offley, so called from King Offa, who frequently resided, and at last died here ; and Hexton, near the Military Way, where on a high hill is an oval camp of great strength and ancient works ; and near it, on the top of another hill, is a hillock, such as the Romans were wont to rear for soldiers slain, wherein many bones have been found. A parcel of land near the aforesaid camp is called Dane Furlong to this day."

Now there is a hillock of the above description on the top of a hill not above a quarter of a mile from where the remains were found ; and the whole country being studded with Roman works, showing how much those people frequented these parts, coupled with the circumstance of so many urns containing ashes being found, favours the opinion that they belong rather to a Roman than a Danish period of our history.

In the extract given from Camden, he states King Offa to have died and been buried at Offley. But Fuller, in his "Church History," states he was buried at Bedford, and that his body was afterwards swept away by the overflowing of the river.

J. C.

#### ROYSTON.

[1833, *Part I.*, p. 453.]

Some workmen employed in digging for stone at Limloe Hill, near Royston, lately discovered the remains of several bodies, one of which, in a most perfect state, was timely saved from their mutilation. It was carefully taken up by Mr. Deck, practical chemist, of Huntingdon, and forms very nearly an entire skeleton. This extraordinary preservation of perishable remains from so remote a period is in a great measure to be attributed to its being found embedded in a dry chalk soil. Its position was east and west, with the left arm across the body, and the right arm extended by its side. Upon the breast were numerous pieces of broken pottery, evidently the remains of urns of fine workmanship, and several coins of Claudius and Vespasian and Faustina.

Limloe Hill is a remarkable barrow on the hills at Litlington, near Royston. It is situated upon the Ickenild street-way. There is



little doubt but some considerable Roman station was situated hereabouts, the name of which perhaps has not reached modern times. About twelve years since, upwards of 200 sepulchral urns were discovered by the side of the Roman road, and at a short distance from Limloe Hill. The most remarkable of these antiquities, with the burnt bones and ashes which they contain, have been carefully preserved by the Rev. Dr. Webb, master of Clare Hall, Cambridge, in the library of that ancient college.

## ST. ALBANS.

[1799, *Part I.*, pp. 363, 364.]

On Friday the 3rd May, as some labourers were digging for gravel in a field of wheat at the back of the house of Kingsbury, in St. Michael's parish, in the occupation of Mr. Ralph Smith, an ancient and respectable gentleman farmer of that place, they struck against a flint stone; and, upon turning it up, and examining farther, they found an arched vault of large flints, reaching some way; and within it a thick and heavy leaden coffin, 5 feet 6 inches long, the upper end of which seems to have been semicircular, but the lower end quite straight; it is broken in half across the middle, and seems to have had two or three holes bored through the bottom; nothing like a lid appears; the edges of the top are broken and uneven; and it is brown, from having lain so long in the earth, and vastly cankered and corroded. In the coffin were the remains of a skeleton, consisting principally of a small skull, grown exceedingly brown, but in perfect condition, and not having lost, when first discovered, perhaps, one tooth. From all which circumstances, and the shortness of the coffin, I should incline to think it must have been a young lad. The face appears to me to have been rather compressed in the sides, and projecting towards the mouth. There were also, I understand, two thigh bones. Near to this coffin were several large and long iron nails, or cramps, prodigiously encrusted and corroded with rust. Two of these, with the skull and a scrap of the coffin, are deposited in a closet in the Archdeacon's court, behind the high altar in the Abbey church, where some other relics of a similar kind are to be seen. The coffin is at present at a plumber's in the neighbourhood, and contains, probably, lead enough for two or three modern ones. I visited the spot ten days after this discovery, and found it, in a direct line, nearly north of St. Michael's Church, at the distance of perhaps a quarter of a mile, a little, as seems to me, to the west of what is called Oyster Hill in Dr. Stukeley's "*Vestigia Cinerum Verolami*," in vol. i. of the "*Vetusta Monumenta*," at some distance from the hedge, and without any indication upon the surface of what was to be expected below. But I found that this must have been, at some time, and upon some occasion, a common *cœmeterium*; for, while I was there, the labourers dug out bones. They had found no

other coffin, but many bones, the remains of more skeletons ; some of which they said were lying about in such a way that it seemed as if bodies had been thrown in at random, and left to lie as they fell. They dug up, and showed me, another skull which they had found and buried again, which was much hurt by their pick-axe, but contained several very good teeth. There seemed to be black patches in the ground, the lowest parts of which were, in general, but about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet below the surface, whereof each had probably contained a body, or bodies, with patches of the natural-coloured earth between them ; and the men picked up little handfuls of earth, with small particles or spangles among it, which they took to be the remains of decayed coffins, or might be of the bodies themselves. They assured me they had found no coin, but one very small trifling piece. I observed some thick broken tiles, probably taken out of the walls of Verulam ; and a small broken piece of black earthenware, which, when washed might be written on like a slate, and appeared to have been something of the shape of those stands which we frequently meet with under the better sort of garden-pots. E.

## WARE.

[1802, *Part I.*, pp. 393, 394.]

In digging a ditch, Feb. 26, 1802, to plant a hedge to enclose a piece of garden-ground, in the centre of the field of 12 acres called The Bury, at the south-west corner of Ware, opposite the mill, and not far from the wall of the Priory garden on the other side of the road, the labourers at the depth of 3 feet came to a stone coffin, which being opened was found to terminate at the head in an obtuse angle, though covered with a stone more rounded at the head. It was 6 feet long on the outside to the set-off of the head, the sides of whose angles were each 12 inches long, and the base 1 foot 11 inches, and at the feet 13 inches ; the sides 4 inches thick, 13 deep in the clear. A human skeleton was found in it, the bones of which, by order of Mr. Fraser, the curate, were deposited in the churchyard. South of this, at the distance of about 12 inches, was found another, 7 feet 3 inches long, 6 feet 7 inches in the clear, 2 feet 8 inches over at the head, 1 foot 11 within, 14 at feet, 12 inches deep, 17 inches high. The lid of this was broken at the bottom. The head of the skeleton in this was entire, reclined to the left shoulder, the lower jaw fallen, and each jaw contained 15 teeth. The bones were perfect, even of the fingers and toes. The body appeared to have been laid in a wooden case, at least a quantity of fine brown dust, or powder, in fig. 3, was taken for it ; and a body of lime, or white mortar, adhered to the coffin in some parts, and appeared to bear the marks of a winding-sheet, closely adhering to the shape of the body.

A third coffin, found March 2, at the same distance from the last, was 2 feet 2 inches at the head, 1 foot 5 inches at the feet, 4 inches

thick, 12 inches deep, 17 inches high, 7 feet long, or 6 feet 6 inches in the clear. In this was no skull; the thigh-bone measured 20 inches, the leg-bone 16 inches. The arm and shoulder-bones were *in situ*, and the lower vertebræ of the back rather of a large proportion. The same lime and wood-dust appeared here.

The two last coffins and lids were straight at the head.

March 3, at the distance of 20 feet due west from these three, which lay in a row from north to south, was discovered a fourth, 6 feet 7 inches (5 feet 11 inches clear), by 2 feet 7 inches (1 foot 11 inches clear) at head, and 1 foot 8 inches (clear 11 inches) at feet; the lid overhung 5 inches on the north side. It was 11 inches in the clear at feet, and at head 22 inches, and 5 feet 11 inches long, clear; 1 foot 4 inches deep within, 1 foot 11 inches without, thickness of the lid 6 inches, making together 2 feet 5 inches. No skull in this, but the other large bones, and wood-dust, and lime. This coffin appeared long and narrow, not so well squared as the others, and the lid hung over on the right about 4 inches. They were all made of yellowish stone, full of fossils, such as it was observed the handsome church at Ashwell was built of. The lime in the last had more of a yellow tinge than that in the others.

All these coffins lay east and west.

The bones lay in good order, although the ligaments had been completely destroyed. The enamel of the teeth, which had been stolen away, remained in the lower jaw; and some small remains of hair, short and tufty, adhered to the back of the skull; and about the ears the skin appeared in several places dried on it.

In the mould was found one small copper coin of the lower empire, Constantine the Great, or Constantius; head laureate. Reverse, two Victories supporting a shield, on which was the usual inscription, VOTA PR, or VOT. X. See fig. 6.

Salmon speaks of fortified ground on the other side, called Rennesley, which he refers to the Danes, "History of Hertfordshire," p. 243; and a Roman road is supposed to have run near the field in question.

On the hill near Dartford Brent, in a gravelly soil, in digging a grave for a horse, was discovered a few years ago the stone coffin, fig. 5, composed of soft stone, clamped with four iron clamps, let in with lead, one on each side, and at the head and feet. When this coffin was opened, Mr. Brand, the owner of the field where it was found, says it contained the bones of a young female, supposed about 19; the teeth were all sound and beautifully white, the hair long. The body had been overspread with a white plaster, which retained the impression of the decayed limbs, and even the features of the face. The coffin measures 6 feet 2 inches in length within, and is 19 inches square; the sides and ends are about 4 inches thick.



## Huntingdonshire.

## FOLKESWORTH.

[1868, *Part I.*, pp. 556-561.]

. . . . Three and a half miles south of Chesterton is the old village of Folkesworth, where the Saxon Folk-mote was wont to be held; and close by this village (though in the parish of Stilton) have recently been discovered the traces of another Roman cemetery, with which I first made acquaintance on December 26, 1866.

It was on the morning of that day that a labourer came to me, and said: "We've just begun to mark out for tile-draining in the Folkesworth Close (meadow), and we've found a great stone coffin, with a heap o' buns in it" (he meant to say *bones*); "and the gaffir" (*i.e.*, the bailiff, which must surely be a corruption of *giaffir*) "wants to know if it is to be took to the churchyard?" To have done this, however—even if such a course had been advisable—would not have been an easy matter. For, on going to the field, I found that the coffin was still in its original position, a foot below the level of the soil, the earth being cleared from above and around it, and that its weight must have been considerable, its dimensions being as follows:—Internal length, 6 feet 2 inches; internal depth, 1 foot 5 inches; width of base, 1 foot 2 inches, gradually increasing to a width of 2 feet at the head. The coffin was hewn from a solid block of stone, smoothed only on the inner side, and having a general thickness of 8 inches. Its lid had been raised, and was a ponderous stone of 6 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 2 inches. The position of the coffin was south-east by north-west, and its southern side had been broken in two places. This had given admission to water and silt, with which the coffin was filled, and in roughly clearing out which the two skeletons had been, unfortunately, disturbed. A surgeon, who saw them on their discovery, pronounced them to be the bones of a male and female; the male, that of a man in the prime of life, who, judging from his thigh-bone, was of more than average height. The skulls were in good condition, and I noticed a few molar teeth in that of the male. No ornaments, pottery, coins, or weapons, were found in or near the coffin, which was without an inscription. The bones of a horse were found in the shallow soil that covered the coffin-lid. The field is on a plateau of high ground overlooking Whittlesea Mere, and the whole district of the fens as far as Ely, and it was not brought into cultivation till the year 1803. It is a portion of the Washingley estate, now the property of the Earl of Harrington, who ordered the coffin not to be removed, but to be again covered with the soil, which was accordingly done. The accompanying sketch was made shortly after the discovery, and shows Folkesworth Church in the background, with the tops of the thatched cottages in the village, and one of those

squarely-built pigeon-houses, which formed so important a source of revenue, not only to their owners, but to the royalty which taxed them.

During the three months that succeeded upon the discovery of the stone coffin, the field (of fifteen acres) was tile-drained; but no systematic exploration of the ground has been made, and it is obvious that in the formation of narrow trenches, many yards asunder, a very inconsiderable portion of the soil would be disturbed. The drainers, too, were only intent on the rapid execution of their own task-work; and, although I offered to reward them for any discoveries, they appeared to think that nothing less than a stone coffin would satisfy me. They, therefore, "made no account of pottery," but smashed and buried it; and in answer to my inquiries replied that they had found nothing but "a few old pots and jars and sich like," the "sich like," in one case, including a heap of oyster-shells, the remains, doubtless, of a British delicacy of which the Roman conquerors had partaken. The only coin brought to me from the field was a Nürnberg token. But, by grubbing about in the drains and turning over the soil, I discovered so many fragments of pottery that the ground, in some cases, was literally strewn by them. These, together with patches of ashes and moist black earth, were found throughout the whole extent of the level field of fifteen acres; but when, in the following two months, the adjoining field (which is on a sharp slope towards Washingley) was tile-drained in the same way, no such remains or traces of sepulture were found. The fragments of pottery were fragments indeed, the workmen's tools having made sad havoc with them; but, curiously enough, the largest in my possession is the greatest prize, being the greater portion of an elegant-shaped *patera* of the lustrous Samian ware, the diameter of its base being  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches, widening to a diameter of 7 inches at the moulded lip or brim, with a depth of 2 inches. The base rises slightly to a point in the centre, across which is the potter's brand—

BORILLI OFFIC.

(Borilli officinâ—"From the workshop or manufactory of Borillus"). I also found fragments of, at least, three other *pateræ* of the same pattern, but of smaller and larger sizes. They are without any brand, and are of a paler tint and surface, and are, possibly, specimens of some of those Durobrivian imitations of Samian ware of which Mr. Artis speaks in his work.

Other specimens of pottery are also black in colour, and of great thickness; while others are of a pale buff colour, and very thin—the former, like iron stone, probably were portions of cinerary urns. I also found an iron implement, various oyster-shells, and a fragment of a flanged building-tile, with six mouldings, and of a brilliant red colour. The soil has been replaced, the field is cropped over, and all

traces of the ancient cemetery are now concealed. The field is close to an ancient road, and in *Notes and Queries* (3rd S. xi. 129) I stated, at some length, my reasons for thinking that the Ermine Street came along here on the high ground, in a straight line from Alconbury Hill to Chesterton; and did not first bend to the east at Conington, and then passing through the low-lying town of Stilton, bend again to the west at Norman Cross, as it has been marked down by all chartographers since the time of Speed, whose map (dated 1662) is the first that makes Ermine Street to follow the course of the great North Road through the town of Stilton, and not on the high ground, a mile westward, through Folkesworth. Camden speaks of "Ermingstreat" being "seene with an high banke a little above Stilton;" and the discovery of this ancient Roman cemetery would seem an additional confirmation of Camden's statement that the old "Roman Portway" passed by the cemetery through Folkesworth.

CUTHBERT BEDE.

#### STILTON.

[1739, *p.* 213.]

By Kate's Cabin, near Stilton, Huntingdonshire, was ploughed up in the High Road a leaden coffin, 400 lb. weight, that contained a very fresh skeleton, together with Roman silver and brass coins. There was found also an urn, with burnt bones in it, and the effigy of a woman that was burnt.

#### WATER NEWTON.

[1826, *Part II.*, *p.* 355.]

A Roman villa, and other curious remains of Roman antiquities, have recently been discovered on the side of the North Road, near Water Newton (seven miles south of Stamford), which are, in all probability, connected with those on the opposite side of the river Nene (at Castor). The author of these discoveries has, within these last four years, traced them through the several parishes of Castor, Alwalton, Chesterton, Water Newton, and Sutton—an extent of nearly nine miles in circumference, and the remains are by far the most curious and extensive that have been explored in Britain. The villa, situated on the side of the road, near Water Newton, consisted of a large square of buildings. The floors are composed of small square stone tesserae, set in a durable cement, and appear to have been much worn. Some parts of the walls bear the vestiges of colours, as fresh as if but lately laid on. Three hundred yards to the east of these buildings, several human skeletons were dug up, some urns, and two kilns resembling those used by the ancient potters. In 1824 and 1825, several kilns of this description were discovered in Sutton and Normangate field; also vessels containing



the colour and glaze used in the manufacture of Roman earthen vessels.

### Kent.

#### BIGBERRY, NEAR CANTERBURY.

[1866, *Part I.*, p. 491.]

Mr. John Brent, to whom so much is due for the important researches he has made at Sarre and at other places in this, his native county, has recently been so fortunate as to add to his former collection from Bigberry Hill further examples of Roman agricultural implements. "On Friday last," he states in a letter of the 11th of this month (March), "I took a walk to Bigberry, a gravel pit about two miles on the Chartham road. The workmen, in digging out gravel, had found some iron-work. It was the same locality where the Roman plough-share, wheel-tires, etc., had been found. Upon separating the mass of iron, I found four perfect sickles, several iron rings, part of an iron rod, the ferule or spike-end of a staff, a small engraved bronze buckle, and the fragments of a Roman cinerary urn. The whole appeared to have been deposited about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet below the surface, and upon a layer of burnt wood or earth. I send a pattern of one of the iron implements. They are slightly grooved near the outer edges. Possibly they may be 'bill-hooks,' although the slightness of the material renders this hypothesis very doubtful. They are recurved at the handle end, as if for a wooden haft; indeed, fragments of wood remained on two of them. They lay one over the other, rusted together."

C. ROACH SMITH.

#### CANTERBURY.

[1805, *Part I.*, p. 17.]

As Roman tessellated pavements are become an object of general curiosity, I send you a faithful drawing (Plate II.) of one which was discovered, June 20, 1758, at 3 feet under the surface of the ground, in digging a cellar at the house next to the King's Head in the city of Canterbury. The drawing was purchased, out of the collection of the late Edward Jacob, Esq., of Faversham, by

Yours, etc. S. E. B.

[1861, *Part I.*, p. 78.]

Excavations lately made in the High Street of Canterbury have laid open the foundations of Roman buildings which cross below the present street, proving that it cannot be of so early a date as some have imagined. On the side of the Watling Street, just beyond the city walls, a Roman cemetery has been touched upon by excavators for the foundations of a house.

[1863, *Part I.*, pp. 354, 355.]

I send drawings of some Roman relics found at Canterbury. The

first, A, is a glass rod taken from a mortuary deposit with Samian and other ware, during the process of making some deep Government drainage works last year in the Artillery Barrack ground at Canterbury.

The rod was unfortunately broken in two or three places, but has been repaired by cementing the fractured parts, with the exception of a small portion about two inches in length, which is lost. Restored, as in the drawing, the entire length would be about 10 inches. The relic is of a dark appearance, but when held to the light it exhibits the colour of a clear, bright piece of glue. The figure on the top represents a cock, and the rod terminates in a stamp-like button.

I believe these glass ornaments, or whatever they are, are of considerable rarity, and I do not know of a similar specimen being found in this country. The deposit wherein it was discovered contained a number of very elegant little vessels, mostly of Samian ware, two or three little dark ollæ of Upchurch pottery, a round glass bottle about 4 inches high, and a small vase of the Castor ware, exhibiting in raised figures hunting-dogs and a stag. The whole deposit was found about 4 feet from the surface, situated about 60 feet from the high-road to Ramsgate, along which, at various intervals, several Roman interments had previously been discovered, thus proving the existence of another Roman cemetery belonging to the ancient Durovernum, in addition to those to which I have already called attention.\* All the relics as above had been deposited in a wooden chest, the bronze clams, hinges, and studs of which, elaborately worked, were well preserved.

Mr. C. Roach Smith, in the first volume of his "*Collectanea Antiqua*" has called attention to Roman glass ornaments, and given etchings of specimens with ornamented tops; one with a barrel-shaped termination, another with a bird. At Autun the same learned antiquary examined a specimen, "in form of a fish, beautifully worked in ribbed and variegated glass."

Abbé Cochet, in a communication addressed to Mr. Wylie (Society of Antiquaries), in an account of some discoveries at Lillebonne in 1860, notes amongst lachrymatories of greenish glass and other remarkable objects a glass rod twisted like a cord as a relic "still more rare and curious." The specimen he examined was about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, one end flattened, the other terminated in a ring large enough to admit the finger. He alludes to having found similar relics in a cemetery at Caux, and in other tombs in Gaul and Germany. Their frequent occurrence with mortuary remains the Abbé seems inclined to connect with the expression of some religious sentiment, or as the sign of some profession. The British Museum contains an almost perfect example.

\* A valuable paper on this subject, by Mr. Brent, will appear in the forthcoming volume of the Kent Arch. Soc.

It is a rod of whitish glass, with gold pendants attached from the centre.

The length of the specimen I have, and of which I send a drawing, rather inclines me to think that the Canterbury relic was not intended to be worn as a personal ornament.

The other drawing, B, is of a Roman vessel, found in St. Dunstan's Cemetery at Canterbury about sixteen years since. It is of hard red ware (not Samian), deeply grooved, and of so peculiar a form and shape that as a specimen, if not unique, it is exceedingly uncommon. It is now placed in the museum at Canterbury. Its height is five and a quarter inches.

Some ancient graves have lately been opened near the railway station, Wincheap, Canterbury. In one was found a wooden comb, iron pin, key of a bright white metal, and two Roman coins, each enclosed in a small iron box; further researches have been made in this locality without favourable result. The immediate neighbourhood, however, has during the last two years furnished many relics in the shape of Roman vessels, celts, and a fibula of a rare type.

I am, etc. JOHN BRENT, JUN.

[1866, *Part I.*, p. 817.]

During the last month Mr. John Brent has noted the discovery of Roman remains in removing the foundations of houses in the High Street, at a depth of from 12 to 14 feet. They consist chiefly of pottery, and the beam of a small bronze balance, very like similar beams found at Sarre and Ozengall. Above these remains was a skeleton, which, from the site, within the walls of the ancient city, is probably of mediæval times.

[1868, *Part I.*, p. 369.]

Mr. John Brent has recently communicated to the *Kentish Gazette* his opinions on certain leaden coffins and skeletons recently discovered in Bridge Street, Canterbury, during excavations for draining. Three of the skeletons were described by the workmen as having stakes driven through the breast; and a theory was forthwith started and adopted that they must have been suicides. Mr. Brent, taking a simpler view, thinks the stakes had been applied to some purpose for which stakes are commonly used; and he sees no reason why the coffins should have been so quickly sold for old metal and destroyed before he and others had examined them. One of the coffins is described by a writer signing himself "F. S. A." as being ornamented upon the top with diagonal lines, "having at the point of their intersection in the centre a very good mediæval *rose patera* cast on it, and four others at midway each of the semi-diagonals." Mr. Brent, on the other hand, sees no evidence why the coffins might not have been Roman; he remarks that one, at least, was found lying north and



south; and that there was a considerable quantity of lime in and about one of them. It appears that the body had been placed upon a bed of two and a half inches of lime, and then packed round with clay. The coffin had been thickly coated with lime, and lay 6 feet deep; of this measurement 3 feet had accumulated since the deposit—an important *item* in judging the date; and were it not Roman, as Mr. Brent suggests, it certainly deserved at least a respite from destruction; and its interest is not much, if at all, lessened, supposing it early mediæval.

[1868, *Part I.*, p. 666.]

A tessellated Roman pavement, or rather what appears to be the central compartment of one, has recently been found, during excavations for a sewer, at a considerable depth, in Burgate Street, Canterbury. The design, worked in coloured tesserae, is a vase of a somewhat peculiar and possibly fanciful form, surrounded by a guilloche, and a square border enclosing a diamond pattern. It is now in the office of Mr. John Brent, who is engaged in superintending its restoration.

#### CUXTON, NEAR STROOD.

[1860, *Part II.*, p. 141.]

In excavating the foundations of the White Hart Inn, which stood by the road side at Cuxton, near Strood, in Kent, the workmen have recently brought to light a deposit of Roman vessels, many of which are of the elegant red lustrous ware, probably belonging to a sepulchral interment. In one of the cups the potter's name, MATERNVS, is stamped across the bottom. This potter's name is also to be found in the list of stamps discovered in London. The vessels have been sent to Lord Darnley's at Cobham Hall.

#### DOVER.

[1772, p. 266.]

I have herewith sent you an exact representation of a curious antiquity, lately found in a ploughed field near Dover. It is pure gold and weighs nine ounces. It approaches very nearly to a circle, of which the circumference is 16 inches. In the middle, opposite the opening, it is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches round, from whence it gradually decreases to the extremities, each of which terminates in a flat kind of *fibula*. The inside is flat, the outside round, and quite plain, excepting some small flutings, at equal distances, as marked in the drawing. As bracelets were one of the military rewards given by the Romans to brave soldiers, and as Dionysius of Halicarnassus, Livy, and other historians, mention gold and silver bracelets, which were used by great men, this might, perhaps, belong to one of Cæsar's officers,

killed in one of his battles with the Britons, and buried in this spot. In Montfaucon's "Antiquities," vol. iii., the 19th figure of plate 10 represents a bracelet very similar to this, which, he says, with four others, was published by F. Bonanni, in his "Museum Kirkerianum."

Yours, etc.

J. DUNCOMBE.

[1811, *Part II.*, p. 217.]

The inclosed is a sketch lately taken of the remains of the Roman Pharos at Dover Castle. This venerable structure may probably soon be completely demolished, as there is a talk of building officers' barracks on its site. It has a casing of Norman workmanship, which is continually falling off, and again disclosing to view the old work. Adjoining to it are the ruins of a church, which some conjecture to be as old as the Tower itself, and to have been originally built as a place for Pagan worship, but afterwards consecrated by St. Austin, and dedicated to the Virgin. Here are said to have been interred many persons of rank and eminence, but of whom no monumental memorial is at this day to be found. The ground on the south side has been used as a burial-place for the soldiers of the garrison.

[1855, *Part II.*, p. 504.]

The Pharos in Dover Castle by all accounts was erected about A.D. 43, at the same time with that built by Caligula on the opposite coast, and long since destroyed by incursions of the sea. Ceasing to be used for its original purpose, it became attached as a belfry to the now dilapidated church, and so it remained till the beginning of the last century, when Sir George Rooke, who at that time represented Portsmouth in Parliament, obtained a grant for the whole of the bells, which through his influence were removed to that town, and to complete the disgrace, "the Board of Ordnance" (says the historian Lyon) "for a trifling sum suffered the lead to be disposed of which covered it, and the tower has remained open ever since, exposed to the rain and the frost, which must in time destroy the texture of the mortar and crumble away the walls." Under the wardenship of the Duke of Wellington some attempt was made for the preservation of the ruin by closing the entrance with solid masonry, thus to prevent further dilapidation by the idle hands of mischief, and also the not less injurious attacks of the curious, who were supposed too prone in their occasional visits to abstract portions of the singular material, tophas (or travertine), of which it is principally constructed. [See Note 15.]

J. M.

[1864, *Part II.*, p. 18.]

Some workmen excavating in the neighbourhood of Dover lately came upon some very interesting Roman remains, buried at a depth of 10½ feet from the surface. The articles discovered comprised a

dolium 22 inches high and  $18\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, in which was a remarkably beautiful long-necked glass ampulla, 7 inches high, in perfect preservation, marked with some letters not yet satisfactorily deciphered; another dolium of similar character, containing a broken patera,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, of Samian ware; a roughly-glazed vessel of black ware, 14 inches high and 13 inches in diameter; a gracefully-formed vessel, 10 inches high, nearly perfect. At the bottom of the vases calcined human bones were found.

#### HOLLINGBOURNE.

[1842, *Part II.*, pp. 526, 527.]

Some Roman sepulchral urns have been found in a field opposite the Union House at Hollingbourne, Kent, and from the appearance of barrows and tumuli in the field and its immediate vicinity, it is supposed that when the intentions of the proprietor, Mr. Wykeham Martin, of Leeds Castle, are carried into effect, there will be much matter discovered highly interesting to the antiquary.

#### HORTON KIRBY.

[1866, *Part I.*, p. 817.]

Within the last few days a portion of a Roman building has been brought to light by men grubbing a wood upon the property of Robert Bradford, Esq., of Franks. My friend, the Rev. R. P. Coates, having kindly invited me, I accompanied him to the spot. Only a few feet of the building, which appears to be of the domestic kind, have as yet been laid open; but Mr. Bradford has expressed his intention to have the remains carefully excavated. They are situated almost upon the top of a gently rising wooded hill, called Farningham Wood, close to the conspicuous eminence well known as Farningham Folly, about a quarter of a mile from the fine old mansion of Franks, now the residence of Mr. Bradford. It is quite impossible at present to conjecture either the extent or the character of this building, or to say whether it was originally large or small; but the masonry, so far as we could examine it, is of the best kind; the tiles are extremely well made; the mortar admirably tempered.

C. ROACH SMITH.

#### ICKHAM.

[1863, *Part I.*, p. 354.]

Some recent excavations in a field in Ickham parish, called the "Church Ure," have brought to light some rather extensive remains of Roman buildings. The locality is near the ancient Roman way leading from Richborough towards Wingham.

Walls of solid concrete, from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 feet thick, have been found, and partially destroyed. During the process great quantities of flue-



tiles and ridged tiles were exhumed, some of them in position. Fragments of pottery, chiefly of amphoræ and the larger sort of urns, were discovered, and a great quantity of cattle and sheep bones, but, as I believe, no human remains. I detected among the *débris* thrown out a coloured piece of fresco, a piece of a quern, and portion of a Roman millstone, the latter by its grooved surface adapted for rotary motion, either by hand or horse-power.

The above remains appear to have previously attracted attention, but the stones and fragments occasionally turned up by the spade or plough-share were considered rather indicative of the existence of some ancient ecclesiastical building, than portions of a structure allied with the Roman occupation of this country.

As I understand further excavations for agricultural purposes are to be discontinued, I trust some of our antiquarian friends or societies will step in, and that the researches may lead to the exhumation of some remains of interest, if not of Roman tesserae and pavements.

The locality in question lies about half-way between Wingham and Ickham churches, in a nearly direct line.

JOHN BRENT, JUN.

#### KESTON, NEAR BROMLEY.

[1828, *Part II.*, pp. 255, 256.]

By the permission of the Dowager Lady Farnaby, of Wickham Court, some excavations were commenced on the 17th of September at a spot called the Warbank, on Keston Court Farm, about 4 miles beyond Bromley, Kent, and at a small distance from the strong entrenchments on Holwood Hill in the parish of Keston, commonly called Cæsar's Camp. Some years since a stone coffin, bearing a Roman ornament, with several Roman coins, tiles, and other relics, were discovered on this spot, and the circumstances were recorded by Alfred John Kempe, Esq., F.S.A., in a little tract, intituled "An Investigation of the Antiquities of Holwood Hill, in the Parish of Keston," accompanied by an etching of the vestiges discovered. This induced T. C. Croker, Esq., F.S.A., to prosecute further researches on the spot, for which purpose he obtained the consent of Lady Farnaby as above, through the intervention of the Rev. Sir Charles Farnaby, Bart., her son.

Several labourers commenced excavating on the morning of the 17th instant, under the direction of Mr. Croker, and in a short space of time laid open the foundation of a circular Roman building, about 90 feet in circumference, with projecting abutments at regular intervals. The walls were a yard in thickness, constructed of flint and Roman mortar, bonded with regular courses of Roman tile, chiefly of the roof-kind, turned up at the edges, and indented at the ends. In immediate contiguity with the remains of this edifice was another of

much smaller dimensions, of an oblong form, from which the coffin had been taken some years since, mentioned in Mr. Kempe's account. Mr. Croker continued his researches on the following day, and, a few yards from the vestiges above described, an oblong massive stone chest, with a coped lid, was exposed to view, buried in a grave, cut in the solid chalk of the natural soil, about 4 feet in depth. This chest contained some human bones; its sides were at least 4 inches in thickness, and it had nothing in its character, except the lid, similar to the coffins of the Gothic age, being without any circular recess for the head, and equally wide at either end.

Here the exploration ended, but it is to be hoped that this singular spot will yet be fully investigated by the liberality of the proprietor of the soil and the zeal of those gentlemen who have thus far taken an interest in the discoveries. There appears every probability, from the nature of the site, described as everywhere covered with old foundations, that some highly curious discoveries would ultimately be made, if the excavation were continued. The area of the circular building was not cleared out, and there is a strong presumption that it may contain a tessellated pavement. A vast number of fragments of ancient pottery of various kinds was thrown up in the course of the digging; some of the red Samian ware, some composed of the coarse sun-baked clay found in the sepulchres of the aboriginal inhabitants of our island. The station at Holwood Hill has been supposed to be the *Noviomagus* of Antonine, and Mr. Kempe, in his little treatise, conjectures it to have been originally a British town.\* At any rate a high degree of antiquarian interest attaches to the spot, and it is well worthy, as before observed, of a complete investigation.

[1829, *Part I.*, pp. 401.]

In the portion of the "Archæologia" lately published by the Society of Antiquaries, will be found a detailed account of the excavations begun by Mr. Croker, and continued by myself, at Warbank, in the parish of Keston, Kent. The spot which bears the above remarkable name lies at a short distance from the strong entrenchments known by the name of Cæsar's Camp, on Holwood Hill, in the same parish. I devoted about three weeks to my researches at Warbank, for the purpose of accurately defining the structure and dimensions of the tomb, the circular building or *ædícula*, mentioned, I believe, by you in a former number, and in endeavouring to detect any other vestiges of the old *Noviomagus*, which has been generally supposed to have been situated at Keston. My endeavours were successful, for I discovered numerous fragments of foundations south-west of the sepulchral and sacred edifices in Warbank Field; and on the 21st of October last my workmen laid open a solid foundation wall of flint

\* See "Investigation of the Antiquities of Holwood Hill," and a letter of Mr. Kempe, inserted in "Memoirs of the late C. A. Stothard, F.S.A.," p. 84.



and cement extending from east to west about 30 feet, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet in thickness. This wall, from having some projections (apparently constructed for flues), and from several coarse red tesserae found about its ruins, I felt confident was a vestige of a Roman dwelling. Warbank Field and two or three other contiguous are covered with masses of rubbish which constantly obstruct the plough; but from the earth being very shallow on the bed of natural chalk, and from the foundations of the buildings having been generally placed on the surface of the solid rock, without digging into it, the constant operation of ploughing has in the course of time broken them up. Where they formed any very material obstruction, no doubt they were more carefully removed by the cultivators of the land. Sufficient indications, however, remain to prove the former existence of a Roman colony at this place.

A few days since, by the kindness of my friend Mr. Nichols, I was informed of some further discoveries on the southern side of Holwood Hill, made by the labourers of J. Ward, Esq., the proprietor of Holwood Park, at a spot which he has selected for a vineyard; a novel experiment in this country, but which, from the healthy appearance of the young vines, when I saw them last autumn, will, I trust, answer the intentions of the worthy proprietor.

Mr. Ward says that his workmen, in February last, discovered a skeleton deposited in a grave formed in the solid chalk rock, and at a short distance from it some fragments of pottery; also that, near the same place, two or three years since another skeleton was found. This spot Mr. Ward states to be  $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of a mile south-south-east from Cæsar's Camp, and about the same space from Warbank Field, which lies also at the same distance from the Camp. I have not yet had an opportunity of visiting the spot since the last-mentioned discovery; but on referring to the Ordnance Map of Kent, I strongly conjecture that some public Roman way ran along the southern base of Holwood Hill from west to east, and that the sepulchres at Warbank and at Mr. Ward's vineyard were on the line of it.

“————— terrâ  
Quâ facit assiduo tramite vulgus iter.”

This, however, is merely a hazarded conjecture; nor shall I at present endeavour to trace such a *vicus* or way from London over the Norwood range of hills through Wickham to Noviomagus, although I know that discoverers of ancient ways have often proceeded upon slighter grounds than I might be able in this instance to adduce. For the present be pleased to accept some pen-and-ink sketches by my daughter of various relics chiefly found during the progress of my excavation at Warbank Field, which were by an accident omitted in my account forwarded to the Society of Antiquaries. The fragments of pottery mentioned by Mr. Ward are restored, as well as



their fractured and disjointed nature would allow. (*See Fig. 9.*) Perhaps some of the zig-zag and wavy lines may be transposed; but the general style of the vessel is correctly given.

In order briefly to distinguish the places near which the delineated relics were found, I have affixed the following initials: C. B., circular building; T., tomb; F. W. B., foundations in Warbank Field.

Yours, etc. A. J. KEMPE.

*References to the Plate.*

1. A circular ear-ring of brass, fore-shortened, notched like a graduated scale, found with the ashes contained in urn, No. 7 (T.).
2. An amulet or ticket of coarse earthen ware (T.).
3. An iron key, found in making a dyke near the sepulchres.
4. A portion of some brass ornament, found with urn, No. 7.
5. A silver stylus (C. B.).
6. Tongue of a brass fibula (F. W. B.).
7. A sepulchral urn (T.).
8. The sepulchral urn found near Mr. Ward's vineyard, Feb., 1829 (red pottery).
9. A deer's horn deeply notched by some sharp instrument; a conjecture has been hazarded that it was done by a missing blow of the *Victimarius* (C. B.).
10. Vessel of coarse brown earth, found in making a dyke some years since near the sepulchres in Warbank Field.
11. Fragment of pottery ornamented with a Greek scroll united by animals' heads (C. B.).
12. Roof-tile impressed with a dog's foot, red (C. B.).
13. Ridge-tile (light brown) (F. W. B.).
14. Roman wall-tile (C. B.).
15. A schistose stone or slate,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick, supposed to have covered an urn (C. B.).
16. Roof-tile, much bowed, built into the walls of the tomb near the circular building.

LYMINGE.

[1860, *Part II.*, pp. 479, 480.]

The Rev. Robert C. Jenkins, who has recently printed an exceedingly interesting "Account of the Church of St. Mary and St. Eadburg in Lyminge,"\* near Hythe in Kent, has extended the researches which induced him to publish the historical documents illustrative of the ancient edifice; and he has found that the building is based upon the foundations of a Roman villa of considerable extent; these, from the portions laid open, would appear to extend into the adjoining meadow, called Court Lodge Green, which is

\* London and Folkestone, 12mo., 1859.

covered with mounds of masonry, probably the ruins of the celebrated monastery of Lyminge, which, there is every reason to believe, stand upon the remains of Roman buildings.

Mr. Jenkins observes :—"There is great probability that a Christian church existed on the site of the present building in the Roman period. The direct historical evidence begins with the life of the foundress of the nunnery, or, as it is called in some ancient records, the 'Minster' of Lyminge; and carries us back to the year 620, about which time Æthelburga, the only daughter of Æthelberht and his queen Æthelburga, or Bertha, was converted to Christianity, probably by the teaching of Laurentius, who had effected the conversion of her brother King Æadbald. At the close of the year 633 she obtained from her brother the grant of a portion of the park and ville of Lyminge. Florence of Worcester writes, 'Monasterium in loco qui vocatur Limene construxit et ibi requiescit.'"

The ancient portions of the church, as laid open under Mr. Jenkins's direction, clearly indicate their Saxon origin. They are almost wholly built out of the ruins of the Roman villa; the semi-circular-headed windows, which are externally narrow, are turned in the interior with Roman tiles; and a small triangular-headed recess, used probably for the sacrament, is composed entirely of these tiles, evidently taken from the Roman villa.

[1862, *Part II.*, pp. 338-340.]

Your account of the meeting of the Kent Archæological Society at Hythe, in July,\* is no doubt quite sufficiently full for ordinary readers, and is given with your usual care and accuracy. But as the objects visited on the excursion to Lymne and Lyminge were of more than ordinary interest, and some facts were elicited during these discussions among well-informed persons which are not generally known, I trust you will allow me a little more space to record them, that they may not be again forgotten. It appeared to be made clear by the observations of Mr. Mackeson and Mr. Elliott, as explained by them to Lord Camden, and myself and several others, with the help of a map which they showed on the spot, in the Roman castrum of Studfall, that this originally protected one entrance of the Roman harbour, the Portus Lemanis, which was an estuary of the sea extending from this point to Winchelsea, protected from the ocean by Romney Marsh, which was then an island, much in the same way that the Solent and Portsmouth Harbour are protected by the Isle of Wight. This was proved and demonstrated, as it appeared to me, by the facts stated by those gentlemen. 1. That the bed of the channel of the old harbour is still below the level of the sea at high water, which is kept out by embankments at both ends; and the bed of this channel is formed of a mass of sea-shells,

\* *Gentleman's Magazine*, August, 1862, pp. 194-198.

embedded in which iron nails and other articles, such as would be likely to have fallen from vessels lying there, are frequently found. 2. That no river falls into this harbour, and, from the nature of the ground adjoining, no river could have fallen into it at the Roman period; the harbour was therefore not formed, as is commonly supposed, by the mouth of a river. 3. The bed of the channel is considerably deeper towards Winchelsea than near Hythe, therefore the stream must have run in that direction. 4. Fragments of Roman pottery and other remains of Roman occupation are found continually in all parts of Romney Marsh, which must therefore have been dry land and under cultivation in the time of the Romans.

J. PARKER.

[1866, *Part I.*, p. 38.]

Recent excavations made in the interior of the ancient church at Lyminge have brought to light more of the foundations of the Roman villa upon which the original church was built. A wall of apparently unquestionable Roman work has been discovered under the columns of the nave, and a transverse wall has been found beneath the towers. [See Note 16.]

#### LYMNE.

[1850, *Part I.*, p. 631.]

A very important antiquarian labour is now in progress at the Roman station at Lymne, in Kent. The owners and tenants of the Roman *castrum* called Studfall Castle, having granted permission to Mr. James Elliott to excavate its area, that gentleman, with the assistance of Mr. C. Roach Smith, is engaged in laying open the foundations of the walls, and intends to make excavations in the interior of the station. The foundations of about nine round towers and two postern entrances have already been uncovered, although not half the circuit of the walls has yet been excavated. The plan of the *castrum*, hitherto perfectly conjectural, is becoming daily more fully developed, and there is every reason to believe that the architectural peculiarities which are being disclosed will afford much novel information on Roman castrametation in Britain. From the variety of curious and interesting antiquities still found even on the sites of Roman stations which have been for centuries ploughed and worked for agricultural purposes, it may be calculated that Studfall, which is meadow-land, and appears never to have been subjected to excavation, will yield a vast quantity of miscellaneous objects of ancient art. An earnest appeal for aid in carrying out this very important operation has been made to those who support antiquarian researches. The Government has also been memorialised upon the subject, but (of course) in vain. France honours her national antiquities, provides for their preservation, and liberally encourages archæological researches. An annual provision for such purposes is made on a liberal scale, and no reason-



able appeal to the Government, from the most humble individual, is disregarded. It is much the same in Prussia and Austria; while Denmark, comparatively poor, is munificent in protecting her national antiquities, and in promoting investigations which illustrate them. Our Government cares for none of these things. One of the most fatal recent examples of the result of the refusal of our authorities to interfere in the preservation of ancient national monuments is the destruction of the remains of the Roman theatre discovered at Verulam. Timely intervention might have secured this interesting and (in England) unique relic, which closely resembled in extent and plan the Roman theatre at Valognes in Normandy, excavated and preserved by the French Government; but it is now too late.

## MARGATE.

[1791, *Part I.*, pp. 270, 271.]

At Margate, in Kent, some labourers, employed to dig the foundations for some houses intended to be built, about 2 feet below the surface found the remains of several bodies, which were interred in graves hewn out of the solid chalk. From a medal found in one of the graves, it is supposed they have lain there upwards of 1500 years. It has on it an emperor's head, crowned with a radial crown; and from the legend, though every letter is not distinguishable, there remains no doubt of its being one of Papienus's, who reigned in the year 237. On the reverse is the whole-length figure of a man, bearing a lance in his right hand, in a running attitude: a very bold relieve. The inscription is not legible. At the same time were found the remains of a sword and scabbard, though much decayed. The bones, when found, were very entire; but, on being exposed to the air, soon crumbled into dust.

## MILTON.

[1825, *Part II.*, pp. 485-487.]

As some workmen last winter were digging for brick earth in a field situated near the creek of Milton, between that town and Sittingbourne, in the latter parish, about 200 yards north of the London Road, they discovered several human skeletons about 3 feet deep, lying with their feet to the east, and some pieces of iron, which appear to have been spear-heads, swords, etc. The largest of these is about 14 inches long; some of the wood is still remaining on the handle. A thin brass plate was also found of an oblong form, the convex side engraved with a device, somewhat resembling a rose, probably an ornament for a sword-belt or breast-plate. Soon after an urn was dug up, made of lead-coloured earth, with two small iron boxes, which contained beads of baked earth, coloured glass, amulets, glass bugles, amethyst pendants, pieces of brass wire, a buckle of copper gilt, a

thin piece of silver of the size of a half-crown, stamped with irregular figures, with two holes perforated, as if to suspend it, a copper coin, the impression obliterated, and a piece of gold, probably part of a bracelet or necklace, of a circular form, chased at one end, the other showing where it was broken asunder. This was carried by the workmen to a neighbouring watchmaker and offered for sale. Not satisfied with the price bid for it, they took it to a Jew at Chatham, and sold it, I have been informed, for £9; it was doubtless very soon consigned to the crucible. It weighed three ounces. Fragments of urns of all sorts and sizes, some of a lead colour, some of a red, the larger ones a coarse black earth, mixed with fragments of shells and sea-sand, surrounded with ashes and calcined matter, continued to be dug up daily, as well as a quantity of bones and teeth of animals. Four or five urns were taken up whole, full of ashes and burned bones.

In a brick-yard two or three fields south-east of this spot, which had been used for several years, were found at the same time a square-formed iron chest or box containing bones and ashes, which fell to pieces in the taking up, and a quantity of fragments of urns, with two nearly whole, the largest of which is of a smooth brown-coloured earth, of an uncommon shape. Although it was taken up tolerably perfect, it has been impossible to preserve it whole. Its diameter is about 10 inches. . . .

W. V.

[1867, *Part I.*, pp. 506, 507.]

Within the last few weeks two leaden coffins have been discovered near Milton-next-Sittingbourne. No part of England, perhaps, is so fertile in Roman and Saxon sepulchral remains as the land adjoining and closely bordering upon the great military road from London to Dover. From Blackheath to Canterbury and beyond there is scarcely an interval of a mile free from records of graves and cemeteries, showing how densely this part of Britain was populated. Blackheath, Crayford, Dartford, Southfleet, Strood, Rainham, Newington, Sittingbourne, Bapchild, and Feversham, places immediately upon the line of the highway, occur conspicuously as the sites of cemeteries, while many others have been discovered within a few miles on either side. From Rainham to Canterbury they have been especially numerous and extensive; and this district is also remarkable for discoveries of detached villas and buildings, which apparently were small farm-houses; while the land below Rainham exercised the skill and industry of thriving establishments of potters. These evidences of a dense population engaged in agriculture and in occupations indicating a flourishing condition of the humbler arts and of commerce attest the trustworthiness of Cæsar's assertion that Cantium was in a far more humanised state than other parts of Britain. It was, there-

fore, better prepared to receive and turn to speedier advantage the Roman civilization.

The leaden coffins just brought to light were discovered in lowering some high ground in the possession of Mr. A. Jordan, near Milton. One contained the skeleton of a female, both skeleton and coffin in an advanced state of decomposition. The other, better preserved, held the skeleton of a male in advanced life, whose white beard, descending to his breast, was perfectly visible when first opened to human eyes. By its side lay an earthen narrow-necked bottle of the capacity of about a quart, a cup-shaped vessel of about half-a-pint, and two glass vessels. One of the latter is of a very elegant shape, somewhat like our wine decanters, with a broad voluted handle, bowed at top, and spreading into five points at the bottom. It is of a light green colour. The other, rather higher ( $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches), is of the kind popularly termed lachrymatory, and has a very long neck and footless body; the former contains  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ounces of liquid, the latter rather less than an ounce. From masses of calcareous matter remaining in the coffins, it appears that quicklime had been poured in over the bodies, a practice very common with the ancients. The skull of the man, who, as is evidenced by the leaden coffin, must have been wealthy, shows no very high signs of intellectual development; and, as Mr. Ray (to whom we are indebted for communication of the discovery) observes, it will hardly bear comparison with the crania of the intellectual labourers who now till the ground in which it lay.

In the fields below Rainham large quantities of Roman pottery continue to be dug up during excavations for brick-earth; but nearly all is fragmentary. The potters' names on the red lustrous ware are: VITALIS. M.S.F.—MODESTI. OF.—and TITVRONIS. These remains find careful guardians in Mr. and Mrs. Walter, of Berengrave.

C. ROACH SMITH.

[1868, *Part I.*, p. 225, 226.]

In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for April, 1867, I gave an account of the discovery of two Roman leaden coffins, near Milton-next-Sittingbourne. I have now to report that a third has just been found, and has been secured by Mr. Alfred Jordan, upon whose property it was dug up. The spot where these rare and interesting remains were found is a field, or open ground, called Bexhill, to the east of Milton. Here the high land slopes down towards the creek, and the more elevated part is the site of these interments.

This coffin is 6 feet 5 inches in length, and 2 feet 10 inches wide; and it is formed, as the Roman leaden coffins usually are, of a large sheet of thick metal folded up to form the sides, with separate pieces for the head and foot welded on; the cover laps slightly over. It is



rather richly ornamented with a beaded pattern (the beads are divided by transverse bars), which runs along the borders, and encloses compartments along the sides and at the head and foot of the same design arranged crossways, with a medallion in each quarter of the cross. The lead is very solid, and pronounced by the plumbers to be of excellent quality. . . .

C. ROACH SMITH.

RECULVER.

[1774, *p.* 353.]

Fig. 1. is a Roman strigil. Its use, was by way of rubber to cleanse the skin in bathing : it was also used for medicinal purposes. It is of metal gilt, and when found resembled gold so much that the famous antiquarian, Aubery, being shown it, cried out in ecstasy. Behold the golden sickle, with which the Druids used to cut mistletoe. It is the only instrument of the kind ever found in Britain.

Fig. 2. The ligula, an instrument used in husbandry for scumming honey, and for other purposes of the like kind. It is likewise very rare.

Fig. 3. A Roman spoon. The spoon here represented is also called a ligula, and has a writing style for a handle. It is of silver, and very perfect.

Fig. 4 is likewise a Roman spoon, and was used for a measure, as snuff-sellers now use an instrument of the same kind for the same purpose ; though Michael Angelo Causéus classes it among the sacred utensils, to take frankincense out of the censer.

Fig. 5. The haft of a clasp knife, on which is depicted a dog in pursuit of a hare ; an emblematical device not unfrequent on the fragments of Roman earthen utensils, and probably expressive of the pleasure the Roman residents in Britain might take in hare-hunting, that animal being esteemed a delicacy by that people, though held in abomination by the Britons.

Fig. 6. A fibula. This is only a plain piece of brass wire, bent into the shape of a spring or snare. Whether the Romans were acquainted with any such devices to catch game, will admit of a doubt.

Fig. 7. A bulla. Macrobius says, the bullæ had two uses—1, that they were given to youths of distinction, to be worn at the bosom in the form of a heart, that, viewing them, they might think themselves men, if their hearts were rightly disposed ; 2, that they were worn by conquerors in their triumphs, with such remedies inclosed as they thought most efficacious against envy.

Fig. 8. Little brass chains, probably the same alluded to by Virgil, to join the coats of mail.

Fig. 10 is an emblematical device, found on the door of a church.

All these curiosities, and many more, were collected by Archdeacon Battely, at Reculver, in Kent.

## RICHBOROUGH.

[1858, *Part II.*, p. 65.]

Mr. Rolfe has recently procured from that great storehouse of Rutupine antiquities, Richborough, two remarkable and rare additions to his former collections. They are leaden seals or bullas of the Emperor Constantine, through which a string has passed in the manner of the papal bulls and other seals of the middle ages with which the antiquary is conversant. The one side is flat, the other convex ; upon the former side is a portrait of the emperor, laureated, in high relief, and around,—

CONSTANTINVS P. AVG.

The lettering and the bust remind us of the coins of the emperor ; but there are peculiarities which show that the matrix of the seals was cut especially for the purpose.

The only engraved examples of similar seals are those in pl. xxxii., vol. xi., of the “*Collectanea Antiqua*,” which are chiefly from Brough, in Westmoreland. Two were found at Felixstowe. There are only a very few in the British Museum, and a few in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, the latter of which came also from Brough ; but they never excited the interest they deserved, if, indeed, their real origin was detected. Mr. Rolfe, we hear, has signified his intention to add these interesting acquisitions to the Richborough collection in Mr. Mayer’s museum.

## ROCHESTER.

[1863, *Part I.*, p. 27.]

Excavations are being made at Rochester on the northern side near the bridge, but without, at present, disclosing any trace of the Roman town wall. Some Roman pottery has been found, which has been secured by Mr. Humphrey Wickham and added to his interesting collection of local antiquities.

## SHOTTENTON HILL.

[1796, *Part I.*, pp. 473-475.]

Taking a ramble, a few weeks since, into the interior of the county of Kent, my curiosity led me to inspect one of the improved telegraphs in the chain between Deal and London. And, as it respects the destructive trade of war, permit me, before I enter upon its description, to particularise some remarkable vestiges of the stations of the Romans on their second invasion of this country ; as there appears a connexion between them both as to science and situation, I hope the combination will not be thought unnatural. The telegraph to which I refer is placed on Shottenton Hill, in the parish of Selling, a very considerable eminence, commanding some of the most pleasing and extensive prospects in this county ; for which reason it

is supposed, by Mr. Hasted, that it was chosen by the Romans as a proper situation for an exploratory fort, and that they had here one of their *castra-æstiva*, or summer encampments; which is certainly probable, as the summit of the hill is inclosed by an entrenchment (see pl. ii., fig. 1) encircling nearly two acres of ground, on which site the telegraph is fixed. As the same historian has mentioned a considerable remain of a superior work in Shellingfield Wood, which is situated near a mile to the south-east of the former, but has given no delineation of it as he has of the above, I explored that also. As the result exceeded my most sanguine expectation, and as it is singular in its form and extent, I made as accurate a sketch of it as its situation would permit (fig. 2). This evidently, from its circumference, which contains about 12 acres, and the multiplicity of the works, was one of their *castra-stativa*, or lasting encampments. The fosses and vallums are very entire; and that on the north, after taking a considerable circuit around what is now a corn-field, enters a wood, in the centre of which is a very regular tumulus. That these works are Roman cannot be doubted, from the number of coins, urns, etc., which have been at different times dug up in them. And, if your correspondent T. R. (p. 201) be right in his conjecture, that the Roman mile exceeded the English in length, they, perhaps, may form a clue to unravel the mystery which has long perplexed many antiquaries, viz., where was the site of Cæsar's decisive battle with Cassivelaunus. Cæsar speaks of it, in his Commentaries, as happening at about 12 miles from the seashore, on the banks of a river. Now, as there is not a river in the direction in which he moved at a less distance than 16 English miles from Deal, namely, at Chilham, and though Camden has said that that was the spot on which the battle was fought, historians in general, probably from the idea that the Roman mile was not equal in length to the English, have scouted the supposition, and strove to fix on several places, which have not the discriminating circumstance of being on the banks of a river. . . .

Z. COSENS.

#### SOUTHFLEET.

[1792, *Part II.*, p. 1196.]

Some coins which have been lately found in the Bark Fields, in the parish of Southfleet, sufficiently confirm the late Mr. Thorpe's conjecture, that here was situate the *Vagniacæ* of the Romans. The Watling Street is visibly to be traced through Swanscomb Wood to Dartford Hill.

F. G. S. S.

[1802, *Part II.*, p. 921.]

Your well-known attention to our antiquity and county history made me expect to see some notice taken of a discovery of a Roman cemetery, by the ploughshare of a farmer, in Southfleet, Kent, more



than a year ago. The horses' feet had injured two large urns of brown clay, containing ashes and bones. By the least injured of the two it appears they are perfect globes, without even a bottom to keep them erect: they have two (kind of) ears, between which is an earthen cover over the mouth, and seem large enough to contain 18 or 20 gallons. They also came to a heap of stones, which covered a Kentish ragstone, of 5 or 6 feet by 2, bevelled off at top, with two rings fastened into it. This was found to be the cover of a larger stone, to which it was cemented. When it was opened by leverage, it discovered some urns with bones, etc., some bottles formed of green glass, which contained a clear transparent liquor, and a pair of Roman shoes, or sandals, with twisted lachets complete. On the outside, this sarcophagus is square; on the inside, it is rounded at the bottom and ends; its thickness at the edge is about 4 or 5 inches, and moulded, or lipped, so as to receive the cover on it more closely by way of valve.

When the crop was off the ground in the autumn, this spot was farther examined by a learned gentleman, who is said to have found a cemetery with strong walls 3 feet thick, and covering a square of 40 or 50 feet each way, in which were many urns with contents similar to what were formerly found; and in a detached burial-place, or sarcophagus, composed of flagstones joined together with iron, about 6 feet by 8, were found two leaden coffins, formed each of two flaps of thick lead. The lower portion formed the bottom and sides of the coffin, the upper made the top and ends; containing the skeletons of two young females adorned with chains round the neck and bracelets of gold.

Dr. John Thorpe, of Rochester, who was one of our best Kentish antiquaries, considered the Roman station denominated *Vagniacæ* to be situated near this spot. These antiquities were found 300 yards north of the Roman way from Rochester to Dartford, as it passes through Swanscomb Park Wood, and just within the parish of Southfleet. I do not know if this has been communicated to the public; but, though my account is not minute, it is authentic. Of inscriptions, coins, or any information learnt to point out the period of time when this was made, I know nothing that was discovered.

P. C.

#### TEYNHAM.

[1866, *Part II.*, p. 758.]

At Teynham, near Sittingbourne, Mr. William W. Cobb has discovered the foundations of a Roman villa, which, by permission of Mr. James Lake, the proprietor of the land, he is now engaged in excavating.

## UPCHURCH.

[1857, *Part I.*, p. 232.]

The district of Upchurch, in Kent, has within the last few years attracted the notice of antiquaries, from the discoveries which have been made in the long range of marsh-lands which lie upon the bank of the Medway; and our own pages have contributed to give these discoveries publicity.

At the present day these marshes are intersected by numerous creeks, which at high water render them difficult to be traversed; and it is very apparent that for many miles the sea is daily gaining upon the dry land. These creeks are chiefly branches from two main inlets—the Lower Halstone and the Otterham creeks. The discoveries referred to derive their interest from the light they throw upon one of the great industrial processes of the Romans in Britain—that of the manufacture of pottery—and upon the topographical changes which have taken place in the valley of the Medway.

The remains of Roman potteries have already been traced at intervals for several miles; and the masses of broken pottery are, in particular localities, so dense as to convince all who have examined the district that it must have maintained a considerable population over a tolerably extensive period of time; in fact, it must have been one of the great sources of the enormous quantities of Roman pottery which we find distributed over the country. The eye of the comparative archæologist is able positively to assign peculiar classes of Roman fictile ware, discovered, it may be, at great distances, to the manufactory upon the banks of the Medway: see, for instance, the examples figured in Mr. Roach Smith's "*Catalogue of the Museum of London Antiquities*," p. 20; and, we believe, most of those found in the Roman cemetery at Stroud, and etched in vol. i. of the "*Collectanea Antiqua*." Others, found in more remote places, have, from certain indications, been traced to the same origin; and it is probable that, when further researches are made, this interesting branch of antiquarian inquiry will be furnished with still more copious materials.

It is obvious that, for the existence of such an establishment, the entire site of the Roman potteries must, originally, have been dry ground; at present, at high water, it is almost submerged.

Very recently, at the upper part of Otterham Creek, during excavations for brick earth, a Roman dwelling has been laid open. Unfortunately, on account of the close proximity of some cottages, only a small part could be examined. The foundations of this building are full 6 feet below the present level; thus showing that, while the sea has made inroads upon the potteries, other influences have contributed to raise the soil in this particular spot. There can be but little doubt that this building was tenanted by some of the potters.

At Lower Halstone, where the other large creek terminates, an abundance of Roman building materials are scattered about; and in an adjoining field are the remains of a hypocaust, or the substructions of a dwelling-house, which have not yet been excavated. This, we may also presume, appertained to the same establishment. The clay of the neighbourhood is by no means exhausted, and is of excellent quality. Mr. Humphrey Wickham, who owns many acres of it, has had its qualities tested by the Messrs. Mayer, the well-known Staffordshire potters, and some of the vessels made from it are almost, if not quite, equal to the finer kinds of Roman fabric.

## WICKHAM-CREAUX.

[1794, *Part I.*, p. 501.]

Herewith you receive accurate drawings of three Roman urns (pl. i., figs. 3, 4, 5), which were dug up, about last Christmas, near the church at Wickham-Creux, in Kent.

The two smaller were enclosed in the larger; and all of them are now preserved in the museum of a young industrious collector of antiquities, Mr. John Gibbs, at Wingham, near Canterbury.

Fig. 3 is of red earth, in height 24 inches, in diameter 22. It was much broken in digging up; but, having been cemented together, now manifests its original shape. On it, at two places, is VICTORIN, probably for Victorinus.

Fig. 4 is of black earth, the ornaments and inside painted white; it is 4 inches in height, and the same in diameter. In it was a quantity of calcined bones.

Fig. 5 is of the coarse black earth, without any ornament, and is 3 inches high, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter.

Z. COZENS.

## GILLINGHAM, NEAR CHATHAM.\*

[1868, *Part I.*, p. 85.]

At Gillingham, near Chatham, on the property of Mr. J. H. Ball, a little to the north-east of Burnt Oak, on the high ground, several Roman funereal interments have been discovered. It would seem they had been deposited in a straight line, the ground in which they lay having the appearance of a filled-up trench. In one deposit it appeared that a large narrow-mouthed jar had been taken and the top broken off to admit the bones, with which it was placed inside the jar, the widened mouth being closed by a patera, by the side of which were laid two other vessels. The whole of the pottery bears the impress of the Medway manufacture, with the exception of two red lustrous vessels, a cup and a patera; these bear the names of the potters Calenus and Reburus. Previously Mr. Ball had discovered similar deposits near the high-road, when making a cutting for the purposes of the pier now being constructed. C. ROACH SMITH.

[\* Omitted from its proper place.]



## Lancashire.

## BRIGHTMET HILL.

[1807, *Part II.*, p. 1097.]

In a field in this neighbourhood there have been found at different times small Roman urns, or pots, containing the ashes of those who lived in less polished, though not perhaps in less turbulent times. The present proprietor of this land assures me that he himself, a few years ago, found twelve urns which retained their original shape, but which, upon being exposed to the external air, soon dwindled away into dust; so that it was not possible to take any drawing of them, in order to ascertain their correspondence with other urns found in different parts of the island. The description of them, however, seems to be this: they lay in a stratum of earth not much more than a quarter of a yard in depth, in a regular form, something like large jars in the lower shelves of an apothecary's shop; and it was very evident, I am told, that they contained the ashes of the dead. Many persons have, I understand, discovered at different times, in the same ground, urns of this nature; and a farmer has just told me that he remembers having seen, in digging and ploughing this land, small particles of bones which were evidently human; and in one spot in particular, he says, there may be found at any time, in a certain direction, the strongest proofs that can be given, that this field was, some time or other, a place of sepulture for the dead. Camden mentions, I believe (as I have not his book by me, I speak merely from recollection), that in this neighbourhood was situated the ancient Coccium spoken of by Antoninus; a noted settlement in the time of the Romans. It appears, therefore, very probable that it was this part of the country (Brightmet Hill) to which he alludes; and that this field, containing the remains of human bodies, was appropriated by the Romans as a place of burial for their dead. It may not, perhaps, be amiss here to observe, that about a quarter of a mile from this hill, on the Bury Road, there is a hamlet or village called Cockey Moor, or, according to some old maps, Cockley Moor, in the township of Ainsworth and parish of Middleton; and, perhaps, it may be no very violent stretch of conjecture to suppose that this place derived its name from its proximity to the ancient Coccium, if it did not once form a part of that settlement.

The twelve urns which I have mentioned were somewhat of a cylindrical form, in appearance very much resembling those earthen pots which farmers use in this country to keep their cream in, previous to its being churned, or applied to other useful purposes. Every urn contained (which is very remarkable) in the top part of it a small bone about 2 inches in length; and this bone appears to have been placed, not accidentally, but designedly, upon the ashes of the deceased within the pot.

ALFRED HADFIELD.

## BUTTERWORTH.

[1802, *Part I.*, p. 17.]

The enclosed drawing (Plate I., fig. 1) is an imperfect representation of a very beautiful fragment of antiquity lately found in the parish of Butterworth, near Rochdale, in the county of Lancaster, by some labourers employed in working a slate quarry.

The piece marked A is silver, fastened to the arm, from which is suspended the inscription B. C is not a separate piece of metal. The arm represented in the drawing is of the purest silver, and in length about 10 inches; and from thence I conjecture the statue to which it belonged must have been about 2 feet in height.

The learned and indefatigable author of the "History of Whalley" has given a drawing of this piece of antiquity, and has attempted to discover the hero, or illustrious person, whose memory the beautiful work of art, to which this fragment belonged, was intended to perpetuate—Valerius Rufus, an officer in the Sixth Legio Victrix.\*

PHILARGUROS.

## LANCASTER.

[1809, *Part II.*, p. 978.]

The remains of a Roman pottery were lately discovered in Church Street, Lancaster, by some workmen employed in digging a drain. Several coins were also dug up.

## MANCHESTER.

[1789, *Part II.*, pp. 1185, 1186.]

Your kindness in inserting in your useful and entertaining magazine the drawing of a curious unknown coin has induced me to send you the drawing of two Roman relics lately found here. Plate II., fig. 4, is brass. I take it to have been the head of a sword, hollow in the inside, the workmanship and execution pretty tolerable. The nails *a* and *b* had probably been to fasten it to something, and were of copper. Perhaps it may be difficult to say what fig. 5 was. Like the other, it is of brass, but with more the appearance of copper in its colour. They were found 6 feet below the ground, between two large stones placed horizontally, with several large flat-bottomed brass dishes, jammed one into another, but were most of them mere rust. An urn was also found here some time ago—plain, without any inscription, containing a silver coin of Trajan. Several Roman ovens also now lie open, cut in the rock; and near them were found mill-stones, the bottoms made of burnt clay—*pateræ*, black, white, and red. The following coins were separate, found at different places: Tiberius, in copper; Augustus; Antoninus Pius, in silver. The urn is now in the possession of Mr. Barrett, of this town—an ingenious antiquary.

Yours, etc. G. PERRY.

\* See this month's Review, p. 46.

[1821, *Part I.*, p. 257.]

Mr. W. R. Whatton, of Manchester, has kindly transmitted us an account of some relics of antiquity which were recently dug up in that town. As some workmen were sinking a drain in the township of Hulme, within the parish of Manchester, three large blocks of stone were discovered, just within the gravel, about 6 feet below the surface of the earth. The first, of which the annexed sketch is a representation, is about 2 feet 6 inches square.

On the front is sculptured, in relief, the figure of a man standing upright on his left leg, with the right thrown across it, and the toe pointing downwards. His right arm crosses his body, and, resting the elbow upon a pillar or staff, supports, on the opposite side, the elbow of the left arm, the hand of which supports the head. The whole is surrounded by a raised border or moulding.

The second is a rudely-carved head of large size, and coarse features, with the hair turned backwards, standing on a very short pedestal.

The third is an image in a flowing dress, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, with the hands crossed, and locked before the body. The head of this last was broken from the body, but found afterwards lying close to the other part.

The first appears to be of Roman origin, for the following reasons:

1st. They were found on the exact line of the Roman road from Manchester to Chester, and a few hundred yards to the southward, from the station in the Castlefield adjoining.

2ndly. An altar of the Sixth Legio Victrix, and several coins and pieces of Roman antiquity, have, at various times, been found in the same township and within very short distances around the spot where these were discovered.

3rdly. They are formed of the dark brown grit stone of the neighbourhood, consequently not brought from a distance.

And 4thly. It is known to have been usual for the Romans to erect, without the boundaries of the stations, where they were in garrison, votive altars, and centurial and other stones, to the honour of favourite deities, and in commemoration of events.

As it is without inscription, it is impossible to offer any probable conjecture as to its purport, or the intention of the erector.

The two others, perhaps, are of a more doubtful kind, and have the appearance rather of the Gothic ornaments of an ancient church than the classic sculpture of a Roman artist.

[1840, *Part II.*, p. 415.]

As all traces of ancient Mancunium will shortly disappear, from the excavations and alterations that are daily taking place, I take the liberty of transmitting to you a short account of the discovery of a few



remnants of antiquity that have been lately dug up in Castlefield. The articles are similar to those lately found in the neighbourhood of Huddersfield, mentioned in your numbers for April and May last, by your respected correspondent, Dr. J. K. Walker. They consist of numerous fragments of Samian ware, being portions of vases, urns, and very large circular bowls, the rims on which they stood measuring 4 and 5 inches in diameter. They are ornamented, in bold relief, with figures of the vine, dolphins, the hound, the stag, and lions. (Our correspondent has enclosed a sketch of a broken patera; it has a rim ornamented with the ivy-leaf.) On one was stamped the word CUPPA. There was discovered at the same time a Roman brick, with fragments of others, and several tiles, 12 or 14 inches square and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick, one of which was stamped with this inscription :

C III BR
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There was found a millstone at the same place, 15 inches in diameter and 8 inches deep; weight 58 lb.: this was the upper stone. Another was found in the same place a short time ago. Both are in my possession.

Yours, etc. WM. HOWARTH.

RIBCHESTER.

[1798, *Part I.*, p. 436.]

A curious helmet and vizor, a standard, and sundry sacrificing instruments, were lately discovered at the Roman station of Ribchester, in Lancashire, by the earth giving way under a boy as he was sliding down a bank. A cube of 8 feet of natural soil had been cleared away, and the space filled with dry sand, in the middle of which the various articles had been carefully deposited. The helmet appears to have been made between the reigns of Septimius Severus and Constantine; the design of the figures which decorate it is grand, and superior to the execution; and the vizor appears to be of Grecian workmanship, representing a head of Bacchus or Medusa. These antiquities are in the possession of Charles Townley, Esq., who exhibited them to the Society of Antiquaries, who directed drawings to be made of them.

WORSLEY.

[1862, *Part I.*, p. 419.]

In excavating the soil for the new line of railway from Eccles to near Wigan, the workmen recently laid bare a portion of the old Roman road, about a foot below the surface. The site is in a field north of the Westwood Gardens, and a little to the north-west of a number of pits, which have the name of "The Seven Pits." The

gravel is light-coloured, firm, and compact. The road appears to have been, at least, 7 yards in breadth. It is exactly in the style of Roman Road which Whitaker, the historian of Manchester, describes at some length (vol. i., p. 108); and which, some years ago, the late Rev. Edmund Sibson, of Ashton-in-Mackerfield, walked over, with Whitaker's description in his hand, and to some extent (as to this neighbourhood) verified it. Mr. Sibson says it is part of the Roman road to Wigan, and that its course is through Brookside estate, Westwood Fields, Chorlton Fold, and a field near Heath Lane, Heath Fields, and the Hope Hall estate. The piece of road laid bare is in one of the closes near Chorlton Fold, and its verification, therefore, at a point where it had been nearly obliterated, is a satisfactory confirmation of the line assigned it.

### Leicestershire.

#### BARROW-UPON-SOAR.

[1867, *Part I.*, p. 361.]

Mr. Alfred Ellis described the particulars of a recent discovery of Roman sepulchral remains as follows : " The Roman glass cinerary urn was discovered on the 22nd of this month (January), in opening a new delf for limestone on the property of Messrs. John Ellis and Sons, in a field in the parish of Barrow-upon-Soar, and lying contiguous to and on the left hand of the lane leading from Sibley to Barrow. The urn was placed at about 3 feet from the surface, and the earth gave no evidence of having been disturbed. The urn was unfortunately broken by the pick of the workman, but it will be noticed it had been hermetically sealed by the covering of lead, and the bones were perfectly dry, and as clean as when deposited after cremation. Parts of the skull, jaws, vertebræ, and other bones are easily distinguished. This urn is hexagonal in form. On the 25th another was found of similar character, but square in shape, placed about 5 feet from the former. This had also been secured with lead, but having been broken before discovery, earth was mingled with the bones. Very near to these urns were found the iron relics produced ; not placed over the urns, but above them, and so near as to indicate their having been deposited at the same time. No trace of wood was to be seen. The urns were found in the clay, overlying the limestone. The animal bones also produced were dug up in the same field at a short distance from what appears like an old peat bog. There is no doubt that formerly there were dwellings at the lower end of this field, on the cliff above the river looking towards the hills, some traces of which have been recently found, and there is an old tradition that seven churches stood there. The fields around this locality were known as Gaol Banks, as it is said a gaol once stood near at hand."

C. ROACH SMITH.

## HINCKLEY.

[1801, *Part II.*, p. 797.]

I herewith send you a drawing of an ancient brass lamp found near Hinckley, Fig. 3, which, perhaps, may be better explained by some of your antiquarian readers. It was found deep in a bed of clay; it is finely coated over with green rust (like some of the Roman coins); and is of the form of a low candlestick, about 3 inches in height. The top is made double, and turns round upon the socket. When found, the socket was half full of a matter which I suppose to be cotton or some such substance used in lamps, which proves it to have been a lamp (perhaps Roman), though I am not acquainted with the figure of ancient lamps.

RICHARD FOWKE.

## KEGWORTH.

[1756, p. 407.]

Some labourers who were employed at Kegworth, in Leicestershire, to get gravel in a close near the highroad, were surprised at the sight of a large earthen vessel, about 2 feet below the surface, which might contain about two gallons. This pot they all assisted in removing, big with the expectation of finding a treasure supposed to be hid in the civil wars; but the pot, as soon as removed, dropped immediately to pieces, and instead of exhibiting pieces of gold and silver, discovered nothing but small human bones, intermixed with a black kind of earth. This was soon followed by the discovery of another pot, and presently after a third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth of these earthen vessels, of different dimensions and forms, all containing the bones of children, and placed in a straight line, within an inch of one another, but being removed out of their places, dropped into a thousand pieces, and presented the beholder with skulls, etc. Many conjectures attended this discovery, but the most probable opinion is that this spot was the burying-place of some of the ancient Romans, who had a legion stationed in these parts.

## KINGSTON.

[1844, *Part I.*, p. 526.]

At Kingston, near Kegworth, Leicestershire, the men employed by Mr. Strutt in the erection of his new mansion have turned up a quantity of funeral urns, many of which are of fine workmanship. They contain calcined bones and ashes, and from the number already discovered (upwards of fifty) it is supposed that it was a place of Roman sepulture for a considerable district. No coins have been found.



## LEICESTER.

[1773, *p.* 26.]

In a tour which I lately made towards the north, I heard that part of an old pillar was lately dug up near the town of Leicester, on which was the following inscription :

IMR CAES DIV TRAIAN PARTH F. DI TRAIAN HADRIAN. AVG. POT M. COS. I.  
H VA. RATÆS.

CXXIII.

This valuable Roman inscription, I fear, is very imperfect. The letters IMR, I believe, were never used on coins or stones for Imperator, but IMP. I should be glad, therefore, to see a more correct copy, together with a drawing of the stone, in order to supply the present defects of the copy before me. [Huebner, *p.* 211.]

J. STAFFORD.

[1786, *Part II.*, *p.* 825.]

Having had occasion to inquire a little into the antiquities of Leicester, I was favoured by a friend with the enclosed drawing of a Roman tessellated pavement found about three years ago near that ancient town, accompanied with the following authentic particulars by a gentleman whose accuracy is well known :

"The Roman Foss road," says my friend, "you well know is west of the town, about 75 yards east of which is this pavement, in a large close planted chiefly with cherry-trees (perhaps eighty years ago), and called the Cherry Orchard. On grubbing up the roots of one of the cherry-trees, the pavement was discovered. About the place where the tree was set, the object is much (I may say totally) defaced, owing, I suppose, to the barbarian's spade : the root still remains in the ground, and how far the pavement goes is at present uncertain. The gentleman to whom this orchard belongs dug yesterday in a northern direction, about 2 yards from the part discovered, and found a continuation of it. His name is Bentley."

P.S.—You receive also an exact delineation of a very curious portable altar, the property of Mr. John Turner, of Chesterfield, which perhaps some ingenious correspondent may illustrate, and which, I have reason to think, the owner would gladly sell for about ten pounds.

J. N.

[1801, *Part II.*, *p.* 916.]

I have lately made some inquiries concerning the Milliard at Leicester. The widow of the man who kept the Thurmaston turnpike at the time it was found pointed out the place within a few yards. The map of Leicestershire shows a small brook which crosses this road near the 100 milestone. On the Thurmaston side of this rivulet, at about 100 yards' distance, she thought the place as near as might be. As the milestone was in sight, I took the trouble to measure the distance from this point in common paces; and, on my return

to Leicester, I paced in like manner the distance from the milestone in Belgrave gate to the East gate, and found the latter space rather exceed the other, but only a few paces. The distance of the place where the Milliary is found is, as near as may be, two miles from the East gate; I am sure it is not less. This is an additional reason to think the H at the bottom of it real numerals; and the trial gave me great pleasure, as confirming the proportion between the Roman and English measured mile, which I had before collected from the Itinerary.

T. R.

[1806, *Part II.*, p. 870.]

As some workmen were employed in sinking a cistern at Messrs. Gardiner's factory, at Leicester, they found, 10 feet below the surface of the earth, the remains of a large Roman building, the walls of which were 4 feet thick, composed of alternate layers of forest stone and Roman brick. From the similarity of the structure to the ancient temple of Janus or Jewry Wall, it is supposed to have formed part of that work, from which it is about 100 yards distant.

[1830, *Part II.*, p. 355.]

Early in September a Roman tessellated pavement was found at Leicester towards the bottom of the street called Jury Wall. It was 5 feet below the surface, and about 18 feet square. It is formed of regular tesserae, of half-an-inch square, and a great variety of colours: no figures are represented, but several beautiful patterns, which run in a circle at the centre, afterwards form a hexagonal border, and externally a square. We understand that a part will be preserved for exhibition on the spot.

[1863, *Part II.*, p. 358.]

Mr. Stephens, the Borough Surveyor, recently made the following report to the Literary and Philosophical Society:—"Mr. Wright, of the British Archæological Society, having (during the reading of the interesting paper on the Roman remains of Leicester) mentioned the similarity of the piers and arches composing the Jewry Wall to those of the remains of the baths of the Roman city of Uriconium, recently discovered in the excavations at Wroxeter, I undertook to have a search made, to ascertain if any remains existed which might lead to a conclusion as to the original purpose of this building. Accordingly, after having obtained the permission of the vicar and churchwardens of St. Nicholas' parish, we proceeded to sink in front of the several piers, to ascertain if they had at any time extended in a rectangular direction from the face of the wall towards the church, the supposition being that the piers were portions of walls originally carrying barrel-roofs; but no trace was found of any extension beyond the hinge of the foremost stones in the superstructure, which were evidently a portion of the original face of the building,



the wall being about 4 feet 6 inches, and the arches standing forward 4 feet 6 inches, apparently for the purpose of increasing the accommodation on its summit for the defenders of the building, be it boundary-wall, citadel, or whatsoever its original purpose, which I leave to more competent persons to decide. The remains consist of a wall composed of stone-work thickly interspersed with courses of Roman tiles. There are five piers projecting from the face of the wall at various distances apart, carrying arches turned with Roman tiles. The northernmost arch is narrower than either of the others, and in the wall at the back of this arch there are the remains of two circular-headed windows, evidently forming a look-out of some kind, and in the second arch from the southernmost end there are the remains of an arch or doorway 12 feet high and 7 feet wide, with a double ring of Roman tiles. In the centre pier, which is 3 feet wider than the others, there is remaining the head of a niche formed with cut Roman tiles. The ground was removed to a considerable depth in front of several of the piers and arches, but in the front of one pier and arch to the bottom of the masonry, being a depth of 17 feet from the present ground level, at which depth the wall appears to have stood on a concrete base."

A drawing, which accompanied the report, was made from actual measurement, and consisted of an elevation with the earth removed, also vertical sections through some of the arches as lettered, and a sectional plan taken just above the present ground level. It exhibited also the level of some Roman pavement found in St. Nicholas Street, during the sewage operations in 1860, which closely approximated to that of the cill of the doorway through the arch.

[1841, *Part II.*, p. 190.]

A new tessellated Roman pavement has recently been discovered at Leicester. It measures 20 feet by 17 feet. The tesserae are very small, and exhibit a regular pattern, divided into octagonal compartments richly embroidered with wreaths, etc., within which are devices of great variety and beauty.

#### MEDBOURN.

[1795, *Part I.*, p. 274.]

The numbers of coins, pavements, pottery, and foundations, evidently Roman, found at various times in Medbourn Field, Leicestershire, have induced me to conjecture, and, I think, with some degree of certainty, that if there was a Roman road from the above places, there was a station here. The situation, too, as I find by maps, is in a direct line, and very near, if not exactly, midway between Chester and Colchester. The road, too, if such there was, if it proceeded in a straight line, would pass through Leicester, which was certainly of considerable note among the Romans, and is



about 14 or 15 miles distant from Medbourn. Tradition says that in this field once stood a city called Midenborough, or Medenborough, which was destroyed by fire; how true I will not pretend to determine, but there appears some degree of probability in the name, if we consider the situation, as I before noticed, and the present town now retaining the former part of the traditional name. The changing of the latter part is readily accounted for, if we consider the present village stands upon a rivulet; whereas I imagine the Roman town (if such there was) stood near half a mile north-west of the present, and near the point of an angle formed by the above rivulet and the river Welland, about half a mile distant from each.

As I have mentioned coins, etc., being found in Medbourn Field, I add also that last year, as some persons were digging a sough near where the coins are most frequently found, they discovered, about 3 feet below the surface, several human skeletons, or rather fragments of skeletons; one skull was nearly entire, particularly the under-jaw, having all the teeth perfect, and their enamel very bright, except one, which was apparently broken off during the person's life. On each of the skeletons lay a large quantity of stones, many of which bore evident marks of fire. With the skull, which was most perfect, was a spear-like iron instrument or weapon, about 13 inches long, including the remains of a socket about 3 inches; about 2 inches of the point appeared to be broken or eaten off with rust. It was formed with two edges, and ridged up the middle, but very much corroded with rust; and also two or three fragments of basin-like vessels made of fine red clay, glazed, with a kind of half-beast, half-fish animal and foliage, in relievo, on the outside of them. There is also a small hole perforated near the rim of each, apparently when formed. There were also some plain fragments of larger vessels of the colour of slate, and some small bits of a white clay layered with a kind of grit, dug up at the same time and place.

These fragments of pottery, weapon, and jaw-bone I have at this time in possession, and several coins found at various times in the same field from Trajan to Licinus and Constantine. Mr. Throsby, of Leicester, has taken drawings of those which are most rare for the use of Mr. Nichols, which I hope will answer the same purpose as complying with the request made in vol. lxii., p. 313.

J. TAILBY.

[1801, *Part II.*, pp. 1182, 1183.]

Permit me to announce to your antiquarian readers a farther and fuller investigation of the Roman pavement at Medbourn (first noticed by the Historian of Leicestershire\*), than, I believe, was ever made before.

September 30, 1801, a perfect stranger to me, Mr. William Fowler,

\* "*Gartre Hundred*," vol. ii., part ii., p. 717.

of Winterton, in Lincolnshire (near Barton-upon-Humber), called at my house, with an introductory letter from the Rev. Mr. Reynolds, of Little Bowden. Accordingly the next morning (October 1) we procured three men to dig and search for it (which we did with the greater certainty, I being well acquainted with the spot). In a short time, at about 4 feet deep, we discovered part of it. This being a clue to the whole, we began on lower ground on the opposite side of a stone wall (for, unluckily, a stone wall passed over it for several yards near its centre). On this side, 4 or 5 yards from the wall, at only 1 foot deep, we quickly found a part of its eastern border, but not its extremity, for none of its extremities have ever yet been discovered. The day being very fine, the men working well, and we willing to explore as much of it as possible, soon cleared 4 or 5 square yards, when the wall stopped our farther progress; but so much became visible after cleaning and washing as to enable Mr. Fowler to take accurate measurements and a drawing of the whole discovered.

I shall now attempt to give you a description of its appearance. It lay from 1 to 4 feet below the present surface of the ground in a north and south direction. The earth that lay upon it was a rich black mould, intermixed with stone, fragments of Roman bricks, pottery, etc. No coins were found amongst it; but the horn, about 5 inches long, apparently of some young beast, which had been evidently sawn from the head of the animal, lay directly upon the pavement, which was composed of cubes of yellow, red, blue, and white, from  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches square, placed in lime mortar. The cubes nearest the outside were  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches square, decreasing in size until they came to the central and most beautiful part of the pavement, where they did not exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch; some were of brick, some of stone. The order in which they lay was as follows: The first six or seven rows, discovered towards the east, were yellow, four rows red, one row blue; the next five rows were checked, alternately five cubes of blue and five of yellow; then a row of triple chain-work, composed of red, blue, and yellow cubes. The centre towards the north part was composed of semicircles of between 2 and 3 feet diameter (bordered with blue, red, and yellow cubes), filled with shell or scallop work of red cubes bordered with blue ones; and in the central part of each shell is a cube of whitish stone. The south central part is composed of six lozenges of blue cubes meeting in a point in the centre; and in each of the interstices between the lozenges is a knot of blue, yellow, and red cubes. The whole had a beautiful appearance when washed; and a great many people came to take a peep at it before the earth was put upon it again. Its extent is probably large, as several persons of Medbourn can remember parts of it being accidentally discovered at different times several yards from the spot where we opened; but this is certainly the



greatest discovery ever remembered to have been made at any time before.

Mr. Fowler had with him several specimens of Roman pavements discovered in Lincolnshire, drawn, engraved, and coloured, in an accurate and masterly manner, by himself; which, with this and others, when completed, he intends to publish. The subject of one of these was the Olympic games, chariot races, etc.; another, Orpheus playing, and the brutes dancing around him. Mr. Fowler also had with him one of what is called *Diana and Acteon*,\* taken, engraved, and coloured by himself from the original in Mr. Worthington's cellar in Leicester, superior, if I may be allowed to judge, to any copy of it that has hitherto fallen under my observation.

J. TAILBY.

#### RATBY, NEAR LEICESTER.

[1773, *p.* 76.]

I have herewith sent you the outlines of what is generally believed to have been a Roman camp, situate near Ratby, a village three or four miles from Leicester. If you think proper to communicate the plan to the public it is much at your service. I should not have troubled you with it, but that I believe no writer has hitherto mentioned it: neither Burton in his "*Antiquities*" of that county, neither Camden, nor his editor, take any notice of it. All who are acquainted with the antiquities of England, in a general way, know that Gale, Stukeley, and other celebrated antiquaries, have fixed upon Leicester itself for the *Ratæ* of Antonine's "*Itinerary*;" yet there have not been wanting some who have thought they could discover the *Ratæ*, or *Ratis*, of the Romans in the name of the village of Ratby, where this camp is found. However, be this as it will, it may at least be considered as an appendage to the Roman station at Leicester. Ratby is about three or four miles north-west from that place, and about as far from any part of the great Roman road, now called the Fosse way; and is also about equally distant with Leicester from the famous High Cross or Watling Street Road.

This camp occupies a place called Ratby Springs, from a fine spring of water just by, at a distance of half a mile nearly west from the village. It is on the declivity of a hill, of which the south side, and particularly the south-east corner, of the camp, makes the summit. The camp takes in an extensive prospect eastwards towards Leicester. It is intersected now by a hedge, and is in some places overgrown with furze, broom, and brambles; so that I could not conveniently measure it in any other way than by pacing it round, which I did on the top of the vallum, or rampart. The vallum seems to be in good preservation, being very distinct all the way round, and is elevated in general above the level more than 2 yards perpendi-

\* Nichol's "*Leicestershire*," i., *p.* 10.



cularly ; perhaps 3 on the west side and about the south-west corner ; in other places not more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . It is from 20 to 25 paces over from the level on each side. The fosse is scarcely to be perceived in some places ; in others it is more distinct, but nowhere of any considerable depth ; it is the most distinct on the north and west sides.

As I suppose one of my paces to be about a yard, it appears, by the annexed scale, to be a parallelogram of about 280 yards long, and about 155 broad.

I have carefully distinguished the openings into the camp, but must leave it to those who are better versed in this branch of antiquity to determine whether they are all original ones. That which is marked *a* is not cut so deep as the others ; that marked *b* is the lowest spot of the camp, and might probably be made to carry off the rain, as that corner would receive the water from one half, at least, of the camp.

I am, sir, your constant reader, R. P.

SILEBY.

[1867, *Part I.*, p. 506.]

Sepulchral deposits of an unusually rich kind have very recently been discovered in a field between Sileby and Barrow-on-the-Soar, belonging to Messrs. John Ellis and Sons. One of the vessels was an amphora, 2 feet in diameter, and of the capacity of fifteen gallons. In a well-preserved state are a wide-mouthed urn in clay, and three large wide-mouth glass vessels containing calcined human bones. Two of these are hexagonal, the other square ; and the mouths of two, at least, were covered with lead. There are also two iron lampstands with the iron moveable rods by which they could be attached to walls or hooked on to any support, as shown in wall-paintings in the catacombs of Rome. In the "*Roma Subterranea*" may be seen representations of *fossore*s excavating these underground chambers by the light of lamps suspended from the sides ; and in some instances they are carried in the hand by iron rods with pointed ends and hooks precisely like those found in this grave or tomb. The whole of these remains have been presented to the Leicester town museum.

WIBTOFT.

[1819, *Part II.*, p. 453.]

There have been lately found, by some workmen employed in lowering and repairing an elevated part of the Roman Watling Street road, within a mile of Wibtoft, county Leicester, near the surface of a bed of clay, about fifty human skeletons, one of them of an extraordinary size, together with several weapons, nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  a yard long, double-edged, and terminating in a point, which appear to have been fastened to stakes ; also some gauntlets and a woman's earrings.

## WYMONDHAM.

[1797, *Part I.*, p. 75.]

As some workmen were this day removing a wall in Mr. Bullivant's farmyard at Wymondham, in Leicestershire, they discovered, about 4 feet under the surface of the ground, a curious tessellated pavement of mosaic work, composed (as usual) of small stones about a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch square, and some of a smaller size; the colours, white, red, blue, green, and black; the stones in tolerable preservation, the cement much decayed. On moving the earth which covered the work, several human bones were found. The dimensions of this pavement have not been ascertained, but are believed to be extensive. The Earl of Harborough, who owns the lordship of Wymondham, has judiciously directed that it should remain undisturbed till the spring, when the extent, etc., will be properly investigated.—Not long before, some Roman coins were found in this neighbourhood, in a field between the villages of Edmondthorpe and Teigh, near the place where the counties of Leicester and Rutland divide. They were deposited in a square hole formed in the rock about 3 feet below the surface of the field; and were discovered by some workmen who were digging in the line of a canal that is forming between Melton and Oakham. The coins themselves are common, and of little value, but are curious chiefly from its being certainly known where they were found. Among them are several of Valens, Valentinian, Gratian, Trajan, Marcus Antoninus, Constantius, Magnentius, and the younger Constantine. Many of these are in excellent preservation; particularly a common one of Magnentius, with his head on one side and the legend perfectly legible; on the reverse the monogram of Christ, and the inscription SALVS D. D. N. N. AVG. ET CAES. in the area III. and below AMB. Another of H. Claudius Constantine, jun., one of the sons of Constantine the Great, is also worth noticing: round the emperor's head, CONSTANTINVS IVN. NOB. C. Reverse, a cippus, an altar, on the top of which is a globe surmounted by three stars; on the altar is inscribed VOTIS XX; around it, BEAT. TRANQVILLITAS; of which some of the letters are wanting in this coin, through the fault of the coiner. The letters below the altar, P. LON., seem to indicate that this coin was struck in London; and though the blunder in the inscription is not in favour of the British mint at that period, the workmanship is otherwise very good. (These two coins shall be engraved in a future miscellaneous plate.)—Other Roman coins have been found at Market Overton, where are evident marks of a Roman station; and at Bridge Casterton (Gausennæ, as Camden conjectures), situated on the Roman road about two miles from Stamford.

## Lincolnshire.

## ASHBY PUERORUM.

[1804, *Part II.*, p. 971.]

A Roman sepulchre has lately been discovered at Ashby Puerorum in Lincolnshire. It was found by a labourer who was cutting a ditch, and consists of a stone chest, which lay 3 feet below the surface of the earth. The chest is of free-stone, of the kind found in abundance on Lincoln Heath. The urn is made of strong glass, well manufactured, but of a greenish hue. The glass is perfect in all respects, and the surface is as smooth as if just taken out of the fire. This receptacle of the ashes was nearly filled with small pieces of bone, many of which, from the effects of ignition, were white through their whole substance. Among the fragments was discovered a small lachrymatory.

## HACEBY.

[1818, *Part I.*, p. 634.]

Considerable remains of tessellated pavements and other indications of a Roman station have been lately discovered about 7 miles east of Grantham, county Lincoln, on the side of a hill by the bridge-end turnpike. Three distinct apartments have been already cleared, one of which is a sudatory or sweating-bath, the flues and furnaces of which are very distinct. Competent judges agree in opinion that it has been à *Causennis* of the Romans. The place has from ancient tradition been called the "Roman Hill," but nothing had been before discovered to fix a belief of its having been occupied by that people as a residence or station.

[1818, *Part II.*, pp. 38, 39.]

About seven miles east from Grantham, by the bridge-end turnpike road, on the side of a hill commanding a view of the coast at Boston Haven, were lately discovered very considerable remains of ancient buildings, tessellated pavements, and other indications of a fixed Roman military station; and further search in digging and removing the earth, etc., continues to be made, by order of Sir William Earl Welby and Lord Brownlow, the proprietors of the parish of Haceby, wherein these discoveries were made.

The first subject was found by some labourers widening the road. It consists at present of three distinct apartments, the middle one 16 feet by 22, the others not yet ascertained. The floors thereof were paved with red and white small stones,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch square each, and form different patterns: the first, by the road, in squares, the middle one octagons, and of the third only part of a border inscribed with circles remains. These floors appear to be formed of a bed of compact



tempered blue clay, 20 inches thick, covered with a strong cement of lime, etc., about 2 inches thick, in which the tesserae are paved and set fast. The walls are of stone, firmly laid in strong coarse lime mortar. The outside ones are 5 feet thick; the inner ones between the rooms 3 feet only. Not any of these walls remain higher than the floors. No idea can be formed of them as an habitation further than to guess from fragments dug up, which clearly showed that the roof was covered with coarse blue slate, and the walls lined on the inside with different coloured figured tiles, not any two alike, and in some parts by fine cement, like stone painted in various colours. Of the windows, only a very few pieces of glass were found, and not of a size sufficient to show anything, except in one place, which was stained through of a beautiful blue colour. Of timber, nothing was met with but soot and black charcoal, like embers, which produced a conjecture that the fabric was partly destroyed by fire.

C.

LINCOLN.

[1771, *p.* 200.]

I herewith send you an exact drawing of an ancient Roman gate in this city, called Newport Gate (see the plate). It is a vast semi-circle of stones, artfully laid together, without mortar or any other cement whatever, and is sustained solely by the wedge-like form of the stones. These stones are 4 feet thick at the bottom, and the diameter of the arch is 16 feet. From this gate eastward some part of the old Roman wall is to be seen, built of stone and very strong mortar.

Yours, etc. VIATOR.

[1786, *Part II.*, *p.* 540.]

There were lately found in Lincoln Castle two tessellated Roman pavements, very handsome and perfect, and a Roman bath; a few Roman coins in silver and copper; some pennies of the Conqueror; and some old fragments of Roman pottery of a fine red, with several names of the makers on them, and black, and of the common sort. I am informed they were sold to the antiquary, Mr. Samuel Samuel, of Lincoln, who has a handsome collection, and has taken up some parts of the pavement and kept them by him.

[1794, *Part I.*, *p.* 274.]

A valuable discovery of a grand tessellated pavement has recently been made at Lincoln, exceeding any yet known in the kingdom.

[1838, *Part II.*, *p.* 181.]

In pursuing the excavation in High Street, Lincoln, for the purpose of laying a tunnel from the Butchery to the river, the workmen bared a portion of the old Roman road. It is nearly a yard below the

present surface of the street, and great difficulty was experienced in breaking through it. It was about 10 to 14 inches thick, formed or bedded upon a layer of gravel about 6 inches thick. The material of which the pavement is formed appears to be clean stone rubble, gravel, many shells, and ferruginous ashes, run together with hot lime, as a concrete or grouting. The mass was so thoroughly compact, that its gravity was heavier than the granite paving stones of modern days; and a large mass, when rubbed down smooth, presented a surface not dissimilar to compact marble. In the midst of some of the lumps, fragments of manufacturers' waste were found; in one, a piece of a horseshoe, no doubt brought with the ashes; a fragment of leather was sticking in another piece.

[1840, *Part I.*, p. 79.]

In the Mechanics' Institution is deposited a Roman tablet, discovered on the site of the houses lately built opposite the city gaol. The inscription was probably never completed, but the following reading is suggested :

L(UCH) SEMPRONI FLA  
VINI MIL(I)T(I)S LEG VIII  
? ALAUD (Æ) I(ULII) SEVERI  
AER(UM) VII AN(N)OR(UM) XXX  
ISPANIC(A) ALERIA  
CIV(ITAS) MA(TERNA).

(The tomb) of Lucius Sempronius Flavinius, a soldier of the ninth legion—Quæstor of the Alauda of Julius Severus—of seven campaigns (and) of thirty years (of age)—Aleria of Spain (was) his native city. [Huebner, p. 52.]

The character before ALAUD is like the inverted q, our note of interrogation—assuming it to be q, it may be read *quæstoris* or *quadrataæ*. The *Legio Quadrata* consisted of 4,000 men.—*Vide* Rosini, "Antiq."

*Alauda* (lark), a name given to legions the soldiers of which wore tufted helmets, supposed to resemble the crest of the lark.

*Ærum*—Stipends—from *æs*, brass, or money of any description—the stipendiary soldiers were *Milites Ærati*, and were paid at the end of the campaign by the treasurer, or *Quæstor Ærarius*.

Julius Severus was a governor of Britain under Hadrian.

In the same are also casts of the two following :

Cast of a tablet found on the premises of the Alderman Colton, opposite the city gaol, now in the possession of Colonel Sibthorp, M.P. [Huebner, p. 53]

DOMO  
CLAVDIAE  
CRISIDI  
VIXIT  
AN(N)O(S) LXXX  
HEREDES  
P C

“To Crisis (who) lived ninety years in the house of Claudia, her heirs placed (this monument).”

Cast of a tablet in the cloister of Lincoln Cathedral:

DIS MANIBVS  
FL(AVIUS) HELIVS NATI  
ONE GRECVS VI  
XIT ANNOS XXXX  
FL(AVIA) INGENVA CO  
NIVGI POSVIT.

“To the gods of the shades below. Flavius Helius, by birth a Greek, lived forty years.—The noble Flavia placed (this tablet) to (the memory) of her husband.” [Huebner, p. 53.]

[1851, *Part II.*, p. 522.]

The well-known Roman remains commonly called the Mint Wall, at Lincoln, are at this moment being completely blocked up by a house which is building almost close to the western side, which heretofore was open. The site was granted for this purpose by the Dean and Chapter, and as the house which is being erected is for a parish school, it may be questioned if, in their anxious enthusiasm for promoting education, the nature of the remains which will be enclosed was duly considered. It is said that a zealous antiquary of the city represented the bad taste of thus hiding a monument of such interest, and tried to save it, but in vain.

[1866, *Part I.*, p. 816.]

To Canon Trollope we are indebted for an account of a Roman tombstone found at Lincoln last year. This monument was excavated at the corner of Salt House Lane in the process of digging for the foundations of a house. Salt House Lane occupies a portion of the cemetery of Roman Lincoln, adjoining the Roman road called Ermine Street, which runs north and south to the west of it.

The stone is 7 feet long, 2 feet 1 inch wide, and 8 inches thick. At the base is a dowel 6 inches long, proving that the stone was fixed originally in a stone pediment. The top is cut in a common Roman altar form, with triangular features on either side, below which are circles containing leaf-like ornaments carved in shallow relief. Beneath, in a sunk panel, with a moulded border, is inscribed in large, legible letters: [Huebner, p. 52]

C SAVFEIO  
C. F. FAB. HER.  
MILIT LEGIO  
VIII.  
AN. XXXX  
STIP. XXII  
H. S. E.

In full—*Caio Sausfeio, Caii filio, Fabio Herennio, militi legionis nonæ annorum XXXX, stipendiorum XXII, hic situs est.*



## STAINBY.

[1819, *Part I.*, p. 422.]

In forming a road in the parish of Stainby, in Lincolnshire (heretofore the old post road between Post Witham and Grantham into the North), the remains of a Roman villa have been discovered; its situation is on a declivity to the south-east, near the course of the river Witham, and about a mile west of the Roman road to Lincoln. Many loads of good shaped stones have been taken from the walls underground; a mosaic pavement of rather rude workmanship has been discovered; also a bath; there is the appearance of extensive premises; but the depredations made by the country people, who have flocked hither on Sundays and taken away the tesserae of the small part as yet uncovered, have determined the rector of the parish to stop proceedings, until means are taken to preserve what may be found. The entire lordships of Stainby and Gunby adjoining belong to the Earl of Harborough, who, it is hoped, will cause these choice remains of antiquity to be uncovered, and duly respected.—Roman tiles, strong cement, and several Roman coins, have been found.

Yours, etc. D. R.

P. S.—The discovery was made in the early part of March last. The person employed by Lord Brownlow and Sir William Welby in uncovering the Roman remains in Haceby, on the Bridge End road, gives it as his opinion that this at Stainby is of greater promise.

## STAMFORD.

[1839, *Part II.*, p. 527.]

In digging a cellar lately near the High Bridge, Stamford, the workmen discovered a large portion of Roman pavement composed of rude material. A layer of stones had first been placed down, and over these obliquely, and about half an inch apart, small flat tiles; the whole being converted into a solid mass by filling up the crevices with a red cement. The pavement was a foot below the present surface, and was evidently the floor of a Roman dwelling-house. It was broken up, and the fragments removed to Mr. W. Rudgard's wharf.

## WALESBY.

[1861, *Part I.*, p. 683.]

The Rev. W. B. Philpot, Rector of Walesby, in a letter to the *Times*, dated May 3, 1861, says: "For the sake of your antiquarian readers I wish to state that an extensive villa, with its dependent establishments, has been lately brought to light by the plough and the spade. The plough struck against one of the under piers of one of the hypocausts. The ploughman, imagining it to be some kind of draining tile, or an old chimney-pot, took the opinion of an intelligent

local antiquary. He kindly communicated with myself. We were helped in our labours by the tenants and neighbours. Our villa stands within half a mile of the great Roman road from Camulodunum to the settlements in Yorkshire. From indications in the neighbouring fields, it is not unlikely that this may have been a settlement of some extent. Coins have been found of the period of one of the Gordians, of Constantine, of Constantius II., and of Constans; also some fragments of handmills, a stone chisel, faggot-fork, spindle-whirls, and numberless pieces of funeral urns, and jars of many sorts and sizes, some of very choice Samian and Durobrivæ ware. The hypocaustal features are very clearly marked, as the furnaces, flues, ash-pits, and under piers, which are filled with clay, and much burnt. There are foundations of the walls of three rooms, and a cold plunging bath, with a long drain by which the water escaped down the slope of the hill. Bones of red deer, oxen, and sheep have been dug up, with the usual number of oyster-shells. The spot commands a view of Lincoln, and is within a few minutes' walk of a view of the Humber and the sea."

### Middlesex.

#### BETHNAL GREEN.

[1862, *Part II.*, pp. 614, 615.]

On the south side of the lower part of Bethnal Green road, and but a short distance from the Roman road leading from the City to the *Trajectus*, now called "Old Ford," are several detached cottages, standing in neat and well-cultivated gardens; the place is named Camden Gardens.

On the 8th of March, as an occupant of one of these dwellings was digging for gravel in a corner near his door, he uncovered a leaden coffin, at about 4 feet from the surface. In trying to remove the lid he broke off about a third part of it. A portion of a human skeleton, and the form of a face, could be plainly traced through the lime with which the coffin was nearly filled. An eager curiosity had disarranged the contents with a mason's trowel, long before I heard the finder was making a profitable exhibition from numbers drawn to the spot by the novelty of the occurrence.

In this state I saw it, and from the form of the lid, which was alone uncovered, asserted it to be Roman.

On Saturday, the 15th, the contents were taken out, and the coffin removed to the cottage. No urn, coin, or vessel of any description had been found. The sides are plain, but the ends have a well-known ornament on Roman coffins, as described in Mr. Roach Smith's "*Collectanea Antiqua*," vol. iii.,\*—an X, and on each side an I.

\* Art. "Roman Sepulchral Remains," pp. 45-62.

Instead of the cord, or bead and two-line pattern, frequently seen on Roman coffins, the double lines are connected by slightly inflected lines, having the appearance of the back-bone of a large fish, or a close-jointed bamboo. The left upper limb of the cross has three lines between the curves.

There is no further ornament beyond a border of the same pattern around the edge of the overlapping lid.

The dimensions are—length, 5 feet 10 inches; width, at the head, 1 foot 4 inches, at the foot, 1 foot 2 inches; depth, about 10 inches; the lid overlapping  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the ends and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  at the sides. The weight is estimated at 4 cwt.

A trace of decayed wood was observed at the sides, and one nail, much oxidized, was found, from which it must have been placed in wood.

The contents of the coffin have now been sifted, when two jet hair-pins and six teeth were found.

One pin, from observation,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, has a spheroidal head, and is quite entire; the other, about 1 inch longer, has a diamond-cut head, but is unfortunately broken in the centre.

The teeth are small and in good preservation.

I have obtained a promise from the owner that the coffin shall not be given over to the melting furnace; and I hope, by giving this publicity, it may be secured for our national repository or some local museum.

I am, etc. H. W. ROLFE.

#### CLAPTON.

[1867, *Part II.*, p. 793.]

A Roman sarcophagus in marble has lately been dug up at Clapton during excavations for buildings, in a locality which does not appear to have been heretofore recorded as containing Roman remains, although it is not much more than a mile from Old Ford, the site of Roman burials flanking the great road from Londinium to Camalodunum. It contained the entire skeleton, but much decayed, of a full-grown man; but without any funereal accompaniments. The sarcophagus had, however, been violated at some remote period, when, no doubt, the contents had been taken away. This was clearly the case, as the cover had been removed, and marks are discernible of its having been detached with violence. It is not unlike that discovered some years since at Haydon Square in the Minories, and worked in native oolitic stone; but the ornamentation which covers the front is a variation of the well-known decoration of Roman sarcophagi of Gaul and Italy. In the centre is a bust, apparently of a civilian; and underneath an inscription, which, from the rubbing, kindly furnished by Mr. Gunston (to whom we are



indebted for its rescue from neglect), is undecipherable, although the naked eye may possibly read it.

## HAMPSTEAD.

[1776, *p.* 169.]

I herewith send you a sketch of the contents of a Roman sepulchral urn dug up in one of the wells walks at Hampstead, in the summer of 1774.

Fig. 1. The repositorial urn, large enough to hold 10 or 12 gallons, broken to pieces before it was got out of the ground. This was covered with a stone about a foot in diameter, in the middle of which was a hole perforated, about one inch in diameter.

Fig. 2. A small urn placed at the bottom of the former, in which were the remains of human bones burnt. On the top of this was placed the

Pitcher, fig. 3, containing likewise fragments of burnt bones. On the top of this a

Cover, fig. 7.

On the sides of these were found, in a confused state,

Four vases varying in size, one of which is described fig. 4.

A small jar, fig. 5, which will hold about half a pint.

Two earthen lamps, fig. 6.

E. C.

## ISLINGTON.

[1823, *Part II.*, *p.* 489.]

As a lover of antiquities, I am of course desirous of rescuing from oblivion such remains as may be conducive to the illustration of these researches. Living at Islington, I have often been led to visit, with feelings of peculiar veneration and curiosity, the Roman Camp, mentioned by Mr. Nelson in his "History of Islington," in which he declares himself of opinion that, from its situation, and the testimony of the Roman historians upon the subject, it was the station occupied by Suetonius Paulinus, previous to the battle in which he defeated Boadicea, Queen of the Britons. This interesting relic is, I am sorry to say, about to be destroyed for the purpose of letting out the ground on building leases. The Pretorium is, however, as yet untouched, and, I think, could leave be obtained to dig there, some coins and other antiquities might be discovered.

Yours, etc. E. G. B.

[1824, *Part I.*, *p.* 5.]

To what E. G. B. has communicated in page 489 of your magazine for December last, permit me to add that the Roman Camp\* at Islington is situated in what has been called Six Acre Field, lying a little south-west of the new buildings called Barnsbury Park. This

\* See our Review, *p.* 57.

spot, I have heard, was noticed as the site of a Roman Camp by Herman Moll, the geographer.

Yours, etc. W. HAMILTON REID.

[1842, *Part II.*, pp. 144, 145.]

I send you a sketch of a fragment of stone I discovered a few days ago, among others placed in front of one of the gardens belonging to a row of cottages erected within these few years in a field on the eastern side of Maiden Lane, Battle Bridge. The tenant of the cottage informed me that it was there when he took possession three years ago, and that it was, doubtless, placed there with the other rubbish, for the purpose of keeping the entrance to the garden dry ; but knew nothing more about it.

To such of your readers as may not be familiar with this neighbourhood, I may be allowed to premise that until within these seven or eight years there existed a little to the westward of Barnsbury Park the remains of an encampment (known by the name of Reed Moat Field), surrounded by a moat of upwards of twenty feet in width, and about twelve feet deep, with an extensive embankment or breastwork thrown up on the western side. This embankment and a portion of the moat on that side yet remain. A huge mansion and garden, flanked on the west by a lofty and singularly rude and unsightly wall, now occupy the site, which tradition, for ages past, had assigned to the Roman legions of Suetonius Paulinus, who is supposed, on good evidence, to have chosen this place for his Pretorium. The memorable and sanguinary engagement between this general and Boadicea is supposed to have taken place in the vicinity (and to have given rise to the appellation) of Battle Bridge.

Various antiquities have from time to time been discovered in this field. A correspondent in Hone's "Every Day Book," vol. ii., p. 1566, who signs T. A., states that "in the course of the year 1825, a labourer who was occupied in digging in the Pretorium turned up a considerable quantity of arrow heads ; and shortly afterwards another labourer, digging a few yards to the south of the same spot for materials to mend a road, uncovered a pavement of red tiles, about 16 feet square, each tile being about 6 inches square. They were mostly figured, and some had 'strange characters upon them.' Unfortunately, the discoverer had neither taste nor curiosity, and they were consigned to the bottom of a deep road." These discoveries are again alluded to (by the same writer), accompanied by an engraving of the place, in the "History of London," by Thomas Allen, 1826, vol. i., stating also that fragments of stone ware had been found. The fosse was drained in the year 1826.

I understand that Roman coins and pottery were found in excavating the ground for the present building, and which are still in the possession of the occupant.

The field in which the above fragment was found is about 150 or 200 yards from the spot, on the western side of the road leading to the Caledonian Asylum. It is of a very hard limestone, about 5 or 6 inches thick, and 12 in width. The general style and character of the inscription, of which the above is a faithful copy, are such as to lead me (and others more versed in such matters) to the conclusion that it is a relic of the Roman age, and refers to the memorable battle beforementioned. The inscription would seem to be commemorative of an officer of the 20th Legion. On reference to Tacitus (xiv. 34), it will be found that the Legions mentioned as taking part in this engagement were the 14th and 20th.

"Jam Suetonio quartadecima legio cum vexillariis *vicesimariis* et e proximis auxiliares decem ferme milia armatorum erant."

And again, towards the conclusion of his very graphic narrative, when alluding to the remorse and suicide of Pœnius Postumus, præfect of the camps of the 2nd Legion, he says :

"Cognitis quartadecimanorum, *vicesimanorumque* prosperis rebus, quia pari gloriâ legionem suam fraudaverat, abnueratque contra ritum militiæ jussa ducis, se ipsum gladio transegit" [xiv. 37].

Perhaps some of your readers may be enabled to furnish an additional clue to the inscription, and such of them who may feel inclined to investigate the pretensions of the "Pretorium" will find the subject\* treated at considerable length, and with much ability and research, in Nelson's "History of Islington," 1823, 2nd edit.

Yours, etc. E. B. PRICE.

LONDON.

[1807, *Part I.*, pp. 415-417.]

It was suggested by Dr. Woodward, in his letter to Sir Christopher Wren, that something relating to the more early state of London, its site and bounds, and other circumstances, might be retrieved by an attentive examination of whatever should be brought to light in digging for the foundations of the new buildings after the great fire of 1666.

The earliest of these discoveries was made by Sir Christopher himself, in digging the foundations of St. Paul's, which were supposed to have been laid on the site of a Temple of Diana. These discoveries consisted of the tusks and horns of animals offered in sacrifice to that deity, whose figure, with those of stags,† was found on sacrificing vessels ; and Dr. Woodward had a small image of her, dug up not far off.

In April, 1707, a tessellated pavement was laid open at the corner

\* On this subject the new "History of Islington," by Mr. S. Lewis, jun. (reviewed in our last number), may also be consulted, p. 2, *et seq.*

† Hares, boars, bulls, and stags, with dogs, occurred on pottery since found in Lombard Street.



of Camomile Street, adjoining to Bishopsgate Street, not more than 4 feet below the level of the street; its length was uncertain, as it extended from Bishopsgate Street for 60 feet, quite under some houses not yet pulled down, but its breadth did not exceed 10 feet, and terminated on the north side at the distance of about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the city wall. Red, black, and yellow were the colours used in its fabrication, hardly any of the tessellæ exceeding an inch in thickness. Under the pavement occurred only rubbish for 2 feet, and then the workmen came to a stratum of clay, in which, at the depth of 2 feet more, they found several urns of different, and some of very handsome, shapes, and various sizes, the largest capable of holding full three gallons, the least above a quart, and containing ashes and burnt bones; along with them were found a *simpulum* and *patera* of pure red clay, and a blue glass lachrymatory, several beads, copper rings, a fibula, a coin of Antoninus Pius Imp. XVI. reverse, a woman sitting holding a patera and *hasta pura*.\*

After this period little notice seems to have been taken of Roman remains till 1786, when, on digging for sewers in Lombard Street and Birchin Lane, a series of foundations were laid open, and among them several portions of pavements. One in Lombard Street, which there was good reason to believe had been the floor of an hypocaust, was in extent from east to west 20 feet, from north to south could not be ascertained; it lay at a depth of 12 feet, and was formed of red, black, and white tiles, of irregular figure, but mostly in length about 2 inches, and in breadth  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . Other fragments of pavements also appeared, some of the common tessellated kind, and some small tessellæ of different colours. One pavement was of blue tiles, another 5 feet long, very coarse, and a fragment of small figured pavement was formed of tessellæ  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter, and of different colours.

As it has fallen to my lot to preserve by drawing and engraving two tolerably perfect and not uninteresting specimens of Roman mosaic, which have been found in the eastern part of this city since December, 1803, I have thus briefly recited former similar discoveries, with a view of adding to them a description of my own, and of recording the whole in your valuable miscellany, in the hope that it may be a means of exciting in future such an attention to them as will further the ends of topographical science.

The Leadenhall Street pavement, which was the first, was discovered in December, 1803, at the depth of 9 feet 6 inches below the carriage-way pavement, in searching for a sewer, opposite the easternmost columns of the portico of the East India House. What remained at that time was about two-thirds of the floor of an apartment of uncertain dimensions, though certainly more than 20 feet square; the ornamented centre, although not perfect, appeared also to have been

\* Woodward's Letter to Wren, pp. 12-14.

a square\* of 11 feet. The device which occupied the centre was a highly-finished figure of Bacchus, who was represented reclining on the back of a tiger, his thyrsus erect in his left hand, and a small two-handled Roman drinking cup pendent from his right; round his brow was a garland of vine leaves; his mantle, purple and green, falling from his right shoulder, was thrown carelessly round his waist, and his foot guarded with a sandal, the lacing whereof extended to the calf of his leg. The countenance of Bacchus was placid, his eyes well set; and all his features, as well as the beast on which he was riding, were represented with much freedom of design and accuracy of delineation in appropriate tints. Round the circle which contained the above were three borders of the same figure: the first exhibited the inflexions of a serpent, black back and white belly, on a parti-coloured field, composed of dark and light-gray and red ribands; the second consisted of indented cornucopiæ in black and white, and the third of squares diagonally concave. In two of the angles, which were formed by the insertion of the outer circle in the inner square border, were represented the Roman drinking cup on a large scale, and in the counter angles delineations of a plant, but too rude to be designated; these were wrought in dark-gray, red, and black, on a white ground. The inner square border bore some resemblance to a bandeau of oak, in dark and light-gray, red, and white, on a black ground; the outer border consisted of eight lozenge figures, with ends in the form of hatchets, in black, on a white ground, inclosing circles of black, on each of which was the common ornament, a true love's knot. The whole was environed by a margin at least 5 feet broad of plain red tiles an inch square. This pavement was bedded on a terrace of lime and brickdust an inch in thickness; but the hazard which would have attended digging deeper prevented the inquiry whether any considerable sepulchral remains were deposited beneath it, as was the case in Camomile Street. A small fragment of an urn, and part of a jaw-bone, were found under one corner, as also foundations of Kentish rag-stone and Roman bricks, on opening the ground on the opposite side of the street. This pavement was taken up at the charge of the East India Company, but broken to pieces in the process, and the mutilated remains deposited in their library.

The Lothbury pavement, which is the second, had been taken up entire by the direction of John Soane, Esq., the architect to the Bank, in the spring of 1805, previous to my obtaining a sight of it. The depth at which it lay is stated to have been near 11 feet; its situation about 20 feet westward from the westernmost gate of the Bank, opening into Lothbury, and the same distance south of the carriage-way. It consisted of the ornamented square centre, measur-

\* I have been assured that it was square on the authority of that eminent antiquary, the late Edward King, Esq., who possessed an old and rude drawing of it, probably taken when it was first opened for the construction of the sewer.



ing 4 feet each way of the floor of an apartment 11 feet square. Within a circle in the centre is a figure apparently designed to represent four leaves, perhaps acanthus, expanded in black, red, and dark and light-grey tessellæ, on a white field; round this a line of black; in the angles, four leaves of black, red, and gray, and a square bandeau border, similar to that above-mentioned, environed the whole, beyond which were plain tiles of an inch square, extending to the sides of the room. On examining the fragments of the marginal pavement, which had been taken up with it, I observed on the face of them evident marks of fire. I have now by me a small fragment covered with dephlogisticated calx about the thickness of a half-penny, to which adhere some ashes of burnt wood, and a small piece not quite burnt.

This pavement has been since presented by the Bank directors to the British Museum.

Previous to the above, some other foundations and remains of pavements had been found in digging for additional buildings to the Bank, of which I could obtain no particulars; nor of three others, which I am told have been opened in London within these few years—the first behind the old Navy Pay Office, in Broad Street; the second in Northumberland Alley, Fenchurch Street, in digging foundations for the East India Company's warehouses; the third in Long Lane—the depth of the two former said to be about 7 feet.

In Grew's "Catalogue of the Rarities belonging to the Royal Society, 1681," p. 880, is the following article: "A piece of mosaic work, found deep underground in Holborn, near St. Andrew's Church, inlaid with black, red, and white stones, in squares, and other regular figures."

Some idea of the comparative accumulation of earth in the different streets of London may be formed from these discoveries.

The depths appear to be as follows: Camomile Street, 1707, 4 feet; Broad Street and Northumberland Alley, by report, 7 feet; Leadenhall Street, 1803, 9 feet 6 inches; Lothbury, 1805, 11 feet; Lombard Street, 1786, 9 to 12 feet; Birchin Lane, 1786, 9 to 12 feet.

In a very recent excavation for a sewer up Leadenhall Street, towards Cornhill, the depth of the strata of loam is said to have increased as it proceeded westward, whence it may probably be inferred that the site of the Mansion House has ever been nearly the centre of the metropolis; but the greatest depth of the Roman level in London appears to fall short both of Paris and of Rome—the former is 16\* feet, the latter from 16 to 20;† and it is 14 in Modena, according to Buffon.

T. FISHER.

\* "Essais sur les Rues de Paris," par St. Foix.

† 20 feet is the depth round the arch of Severus.



[1835, *Part I.*, pp. 491-493.]

The construction of a railroad, for the purpose of conveying ordnance-stores from the great keep-tower of the Tower of London, commonly known as the White or Cæsar's Tower, has afforded an opportunity of ascertaining the nature of the foundations of that ancient edifice, which prove to be of wonderful strength and solidity. The foundations of the White Tower are placed on the natural gravel of the soil, and are evidently constructed on the principle that the weight of the building being spread over a considerable surface, settlement or sinking in any particular part would be obviated. As a familiar illustration, it may be observed, that it is on such a principle a man wearing snow-shoes is prevented from sinking into the light and uncompressed substance over which he passes. This simple, but effectual, mode of obtaining a permanent footing for their edifices was well known to the Romans, who never cared about placing the foundations of their buildings deep in the earth, but commonly constructed them on the natural surface. They were followed in this practice, it appears, by the architects of the early part of the middle age. The thickness of the wall of the White Tower at the podium, or base, is truly astonishing. It is constructed of Kentish rag, huge flints, with a mixture here and there of some inconsiderable fragments of Roman brick, grouted together with lime and sand, containing a vast number of small shells. The wall is 27 feet thick at its base; it has an abutment, or lean-to battening outwards of 15 feet more—total thickness of the base, 42 feet! This wall diminishes gradually in substance, as it has been carried upward—in the first story to about 15 feet, till it terminates with an embattled parapet in width a single yard.

The extreme hardness of the material renders the perforation of this wall, for the purpose above described, a work of considerable labour; it has been effected by steel *gads* or punches, driven with the mallet. On getting through the foundation wall, the labourers, at the distance of about 6 feet inward, have met with another having a fair external face, the structure of which has not been yet disturbed.

Several coins have been found in the progress of the work—a very fine one of the Emperor Nero (2nd brass), and various silver pennies of the 1st and 2nd Edward, Nuremburg counters, etc.

It is curious to trace how the appellation of Cæsar's Tower, sometimes given to the White Tower of London, may, in some degree, be reconciled to facts, for there is little doubt but a castellum of some importance here occupied the south-east angle of the wall of the Roman city, and that it was of sufficient size to be used as the receptacle of the Imperial mint. An ingot of gold was found in digging the foundations of the Ordnance Office in the latter half of the last century, stamped *ex officina Honorii*;\* and the discovery of Roman

\* See "*Archæologia*," vol. v., p. 292.

coins has further attested Roman occupation. It is possible, indeed, that the remains of the old Roman castellum may be traced in those foundations which now appear to exist within the area of the White Tower.

Roman antiquities continue to be discovered in the excavation for foundations in the line of the new street leading from Eastcheap to the Bank. Several beautiful fragments of Samian ware, some antique rings, and two or three small lamps, have been found among old foundations on the Roman level, at the south-west corner of Nicholas Lane. One of these lamps was stamped on the bottom *ASULA FECIT*. On the opposite side of the way may be observed at the same depth a huge foundation of squared chalk, upwards of a yard in width.

But of all the discoveries to which recent engineering operations in London have given rise, none has been more striking than that of the colossal bronze head. This most interesting fragment has the character of Greek workmanship, particularly in the execution of the hair, the curls of which are clustered with the broad simplicity of the antique. It has, I have little doubt, been the head of some divinity, and from the turn of the neck resembling that of the Belvidere Apollo, perhaps was the representative of the Delphic God.

The eyes appear to have been furnished with jewels, the cavities for the insertion of which still remain. At the top of the head is a circular hole, apparently intended for the insertion of a pipe, an artifice which might be necessary to render the statue oracular. By a refinement of flattery not unusual, the features of the god are made to resemble those of the reigning emperor of the day—the face is that of Hadrian. This head was found near the third arch from the London side of the new London Bridge, opposite Fresh and Botolph Wharfs, and in a line with the remains of some baths of tessellated marble, which I had occasion to notice in your pages, some time since, as existing at the back of the Monument.

A. J. K.

[1835, *Part I.*, p. 618.]

I beg to add a few words by way of P.S. to “*Londiniana*, No. 1.” inserted in your last magazine, p. 493. I there suggested that the fine colossal bronze head, in the possession of John Newman, Esq., F.S.A., lately found in the bed of the Thames, was probably that of the Emperor Hadrian, represented as a divinity, probably Apollo.

I had no intention of laying any stress of strong probability on the last conjecture, which might be in some degree combated by a beard being slightly indicated on the head; whereas Apollo, in reference to his juvenility, is represented in ancient statues and medals as a beardless young man. An experienced numismatist (Mr. Akerman)



has informed me that to this rule, however, there are some rare medalllic exceptions.

That the head is that of Hadrian is sufficiently attested by the resemblance. According to Dion Cassius, he was the first of the Cæsars who wore a beard. Spartian tells us that this was in consequence of certain blotches and scars which disfigured his face. Julian, in his Cæsars, describes him as a man with a great beard, of a haughty demeanour, his eyes raised to the heavens, and of the most insatiable curiosity in all things, whether terrestrial, celestial, or infernal. Well, therefore, might Hadrian be found patronising the mysteries of Eleusis. That he was represented as a divinity in the Britannic province, his great works in that quarter render extremely probable. That he did not repudiate such honours is sufficiently evinced by the fact that, having finished the Temple of Jupiter Olympius at Athens, he dedicated therein an altar to himself, perhaps in the assumed character of Serapis, who is designated by Julian as the brother of Jupiter. It appears, therefore, a shrewd and plausible conjecture of the gentleman whom I have mentioned before, that the head represent Serapis. In this I fully concur; and conclude, with some confidence, that it was dedicated "*Hadriano Serapidi*," and that the remarkable cavity and depression on the top were for attaching to the figure the basket or measure, which, as an emblem of plenty, is always found on the head of that divinity. We are told, indeed, that when the temple of Serapis, at Alexandria, was demolished by the Emperor Theodosius, from a hole in the head of the idol (similar, I suppose, to that of the bronze head from Londinium) issued a vast number of rats.

A. J. K.

[1836, *Part I.*, pp. 135-137.]

During the excavations for the sewers connected with the northern approaches of the new London Bridge, which took place in the year 1831, while I was desirous to collect facts, which formed the ground of a communication\* to the Society of Antiquaries on the Roman antiquities then discovered, I observed at the north-east corner of Great Eastcheap two Roman wells and a massive architectural fragment, which I considered to have belonged to the architrave of a Roman building of importance. Labourers are now engaged in clearing this spot for the erection of buildings, and further evidence of Roman occupation has been discovered; large piers of square chalk connected by narrow arches of the same material;† a floor of coarse tesserae, about an inch square; another of sandy and argillaceous earth mingled with pebble stones, 3 inches thick; the

\* "*Archæologia*," vol. xxiv., p. 192.

† These piers were similar to those of a crypt, supposed to be Roman, discovered in 1818 on the site of the church of St. Martin-le-Grand, London.—See my *Historical Notices* of that establishment, p. 6, with illustrative plate.



whole surface covered with a very thin coat of fine stucco of polished smoothness, painted red. This is a very interesting evidence of the ingenuity of the early Roman settlers in taking advantage of such materials for the construction of their floors as the natural soil afforded. Also a beautiful vessel of the amphora class, about 8 inches high, of stone-coloured ware; several brass coins of various sizes, from the larger brass to the most minute size, not more than a fourth of that of our common farthing, pointed bottoms of amphoræ, fragments of coarse domestic vessels, and of the finer ware of coralline hue, so well known by the appellation of Samian. Mingled with these antiquities were many wood ashes and masses of tile reduced to powder, probably by the weight of fallen buildings. A stratum of this sort 2 or 3 inches thick may usually be observed in those spots, on the Roman level, which have been occupied by foundations of the Roman age.

The coins are generally in bad preservation; injured by the action of intense fire, or much corroded. One, of Antoninus, from this spot (large brass), is of the first description; the head, however, of the Emperor very perfect, the reverse defaced. Another, of Constantine, is an exception: I removed the soil which adhered to it with my own hand, and it appeared as clear as when it had just come from the mintage: Obverse, the Emperor's head with the fillet or diadem; legend, IMP. CONSTANTINUS . P. F. AUG.—Reverse, a divinity (Apollo), the right hand extended, in the left a globe; clothed, only on the shoulders, with drapery, floating in the wind; legend, SOLI INVICTO COMITI NOSTR:—a favourite reverse on the coins of Constantine, who probably before his conversion to Christianity regarded the God of Day as the tutelary companion of his military course. The latest coins from this spot are of Victorinus. These relics have been found contiguous to the raised Roman way in Eastcheap, which is supported by two lateral walls, and was noticed by me in a review of the published portion of the History of St. Michael's, Crooked Lane;\*—a work of which, I trust, before long, the completion may be seen, as I have been led to expect some choice relics from the scene of Falstaff's revelry, the old Boar's Head, and much entertaining and elaborate matter in its conclusion.

In the line of the sewer constructing in Newgate Street, Roman coins are discovered by the workmen, with fragments of the Samian vessels. It is said that the workmen have crossed the foundations of the old City wall about the spot where the new gate was erected. If this be a fact, it is of much ichnographical importance. On one of the pieces of Samian pottery is a figure of Neptune. Almost all the gods of the Roman mythology are occasionally to be found, I believe, on their vessels for sacred or festive uses. In the sewer works near London Wall coins have also been found; one of Antoninus with the

\* *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. ciii., ii., p. 421.

beautiful provincial reverse, Britannia. Several of this impress have been produced by the recent excavations within the circuit of the City. The excavations for a public school erecting in Honey Lane Market have afforded Roman coins and a bronze double-handled vessel supported in the tripod form, containing about a quart. This vessel is now in the Guildhall Library. The foundations of the church of St. Andrew Hubbard, which was destroyed at the Great Fire, never rebuilt, but its parochial district united with St. Mary at Hill, have been discovered. This church stood on the south side of Little East Cheap. It was raised, in all probability, like so many others in London, on a Roman edifice; for the walls had all the character of Roman workmanship, and fragments of the Samian pottery were found about them. The accumulated body of evidence (which every excavation within the compass of the City walls augments), of a dense population in the Roman times, is truly remarkable, and tends to prove an assertion that I have ventured to make in another place, that at a very early period of the Roman dominion in Britain, London had spread itself out far and wide as an open colony,\* intersected by various ways; if there were originally any military circumvallation formed by the Britons or Romans, it was of small comparative extent. The walls, irregular in form and of considerable compass, were evidently built to protect the space already occupied by buildings.

A. J. K.

[1836, *Part I.*, pp. 369-372.]

Since my communication of the 10th instant, a Roman tessellated pavement has been discovered under a house in the south-west angle of Crosby Square, Bishopsgate. An intelligent lady residing on the spot, to whom I will only allude as the author of the privately-printed "Account of our Cathedral and Collegiate Schools," has preserved a portion of this pavement, composed of red, white, and gray tesserae, disposed in a guilloche pattern. She informs me that the site of Crosby Place is intersected, at the depth of 12 or 14 feet, with ancient foundations of chalk, the direction of which is due north and south. As far as I can judge by the style of the workmanship in this pavement, the guilloche precisely corresponding with one at the celebrated Roman villa at Bignor (the miniature Pompeii of Britain), I should consider it to have been formed at an early period of the Roman colony established at London, and readily adopt the conjecture of the lady before mentioned, that an extensive Roman building occupied the site of St. Helen's Priory; probably a mansion of some importance, for we may fairly conclude, when these tessellations are themselves of considerable size, or connected with foundations of great extent, that they decorated either a temple or the residence of some Roman of opulence and rank. The fine

\* "Archæologia," vol. xxiv., p. 102.



Roman pavement representing Bacchus riding on a tiger, which was discovered in the year 1800, opposite the India House, taken up and deposited, ever since invisible to human eye, in some inaccessible store-room of that establishment, could not lie more than a hundred yards south of these Roman remains in Crosby Square.

The last-named splendid relic, which we hope the liberality of the East India Directors, when their attention may be called to it, will allow to be transferred to the British Museum, was probably the floor of a temple of Bacchus, or of some magnificent festive triclinium.\*

To return to the pavement existing in Crosby Square, which I had not an opportunity of observing at the time of its discovery. I do not conceive it was the floor of an hypocaust (the *ὑπόζαυστον*, adopted from the Greeks by the Romans, for heating their baths), for the bed of mortar in which it was laid was not of the usual depth, nor did I hear of any brick piers on which it rested.

The Romans employed, I think, in the climate of this country for the heating of their ordinary domestic apartments, either *camini* or chimneys (one of which, a curious example, was found at Bignor, constructed like the sides of a Rumford stove), or braziers with burning charcoal, of which specimens were found at Pompeii. These, when the exclusion of external air was less perfect than in our modern houses (although glazed windows were not entirely unknown to the Romans), could be used with less danger of suffocation than in our present dwellings. I am justified in coming to this conclusion by having observed numerous terras-floors of Roman houses, revealed by recent excavations into the site of Roman London, unsupported by any other but the natural substratum. Indeed, for the use of the domestic hearth, with its cheerful blazing fire, for which no contrivance of flue-pipe conveying caloric can compensate, we have the authority of Horace—

Dissolve frigus, ligna super foco large reponens. [Odes i. 9.]

In the construction of their habitations in London, chalk seems to have been extensively used by the Roman settlers. It was much more readily obtained by them than stone from the cliffs bordering on the river near Purfleet, Northfleet, etc., and the Thames afforded a ready means of conveyance. Their numerous wells in London were neatly steined with squared chalk; their houses were built of it, the walls of which were generally about 2 feet in thickness. They were lined on the inside with a coating of fine stucco, in painting which red was the predominant colour, varied with borders of black,

\* An excellent coloured print of this pavement was published by Mr. T. Fisher shortly after its discovery. The British Museum have but one Londinian relic of this kind, smaller and of less interest, that from the site of the Bank of England, contiguous to Lothbury. This is also published by Mr. Fisher.



green, or yellow streaks. Their mortar always contained a great abundance of the river-sand, from which they were not careful to remove the coarser pebbles, as these contributed materially to bind the material together. Of the combining quality of the ferruginous and sulphureous particles, mixed with the gravel in the bottom of the Thames, curious evidence is derived from the Roman coins which have been found in great number, firmly fixed in masses of gravel concrete, taken up near the old London Bridge. I have seen as many as ten or a dozen brass coins fixed in a piece of gravel concrete, weighing about a pound, which could by no means be detached from the substance which had thus by chance enclosed them. The London subsoil abounds strongly with a sulphureous principle. The black mud turned up from the course of ancient Wall-brook, on the application of heat, emitted strong sulphureous odour. The topographer has had opportunity of late of observing the direction of that ancient water-way; he may see indications of it in the new street opening from London Wall to the north-west corner of the Bank of England in Lothbury; it proceeded thence down Prince's Street towards Walbrook, and the labourers say that its bed lay at 50 feet deep from the present surface.

Mr. C. R. Smith, an intelligent and indefatigable collector of Roman antiquities, fortunately resident near the spot in Lothbury, has preserved a most interesting collection of Roman antiquities found on this spot, and in other parts within the walls of ancient London.\* In Honey Lane Market, where formerly stood Allhallows Church, various relics have been found, in addition to that mentioned in my last: A capital of a Saxon column, adorned with twisted serpents, the backs of which bear the bead-work so characteristic of the sculpture of the period; several brass pans; some broad knives, the blades richly watered with gold,† exactly corresponding with certain similar instruments classed as sacrificial by Montfaucon. To these were found adhering several silver coins of Ethelred—a circumstance perhaps altogether fortuitous, as the knives, brazen pans, and tripod censer, were probably instruments of Roman rites, and we know that culinary operations formed a part of sacrificial ceremonies, as certain portions of the victim were appropriated as a banquet for the officiating priests.

While about to conclude this fourth Londinian notice, I received intelligence, through P. Hardwick, Esq., F.S.A., of an interesting discovery of some urns in the highway at Whitechapel, for the personal inspection of which he kindly afforded me every facility. I found they consisted of a very large and nearly spherical vessel of stone-coloured pottery, having a pointed bottom, its diameter  $22\frac{1}{2}$  inches. This enclosed an urn of dark-gray pottery, containing fragments of

\* See our report of the Society of Antiquaries this month.

† Some of the above articles are in the possession of J. Newman, Esq., F.S.A.; others of Mr. Smith, of Lothbury.

calcined human bones. Near this deposit was an elegant unguentary vase, apparently formed of a compound of clay and chalk, the exterior surface painted brown, and embossed with tracery and foliage, gracefully interwoven with the limbs of a running hind. The annexed sketch will give the reader an idea of the form of this remarkable deposit; it exhibits a section of the exterior urn and the sepulchral vase within.

It is remarkable that a large urn of precisely the same nature was recently found in the Deveril Street burying-ground, Old Kent Road.\* These relics lay at about 7 feet deep from the surface on the west side of Whitechapel High Street, opposite Red Lion Street, a furlong distant from Aldgate, and were discovered in pulling down a pump to communicate with an adjacent well. Fragments of another large earthenware *cista* (if I may so term the external urn) were also thrown out. The whole deposit had been made in connection with the great Roman road into Essex, and a votive stone to the manes of the defunct had, doubtless, proclaimed his age and titles to the wayfaring Romano-Briton, reminding him at the same time of the narrow house to which his own steps were daily approaching.

A. J. K.

[1843, *Part I.*, pp. 21, 22.]

Conceiving that all memorials, however slight, of Roman London possess some degree of interest to the antiquary, I venture to submit the following brief notices of some of the more remarkable which the extensive excavations for sewerage during the past six months have brought to light.

*Queen Street, Cheapside.*—In June and July last a new sewer was carried through Queen Street, between Thames Street and Watling Street. Of the remains of the Roman period which came under my own observation, I may briefly enumerate the following. There were numerous fragments of fresco painting, chiefly red and yellow, but remarkably brilliant, some portion in blue or bright slate colour, a fragment of the latter exhibiting the lower part of the human figure. Cinerary urns, of a very rude style of art; in one of them the remains of human bones adhered so firmly as to have the appearance of being part and parcel of the vessel, for (as a friend of mine chemically explained the matter) the alkali in the bones (doubtless deposited before they were allowed to cool) had united with the silex in the clay. Suffice it that among the remains, when forcibly separated from the vessel, was easily recognised a portion of the nasal bone. There were five of these jars. Of the contents of the other four, when first found by the workmen, I have no means of judging—there was nothing remaining but mud and fragments of charcoal. A portion of a tessellated pavement, composed of the small tesserae, white, red, and

\* See *Gentleman's Magazine* for September, 1835, p. 303. [See Note 17.]



slate colours, and which evidently formed part of a pavement of some elegance, belonging, in all probability, to an edifice of importance, judging from the remains of an immense wall, with its layers of bond tiles.\* Several boars' tusks were found, fragments of amphoræ, mortaria, urns, bottles, Samian pottery, etc., etc. I heard but of few coins; a second brass of Nero, scarcely legible, is the only one that fell under my notice. There were other relics of the Roman age besides those above mentioned, and one among them of great beauty and interest.†

*Newgate Street.*—During a brief excavation here in the latter end of July were found a few Roman coins, some beautiful fragments of embossed Samian ware, etc., etc.

*Angel Street and Butcher Hall Lane.*—Nov. and Dec. During this excavation, commencing in Angel Street and extending northward through Butcher Hall Lane, numerous fragments of black cinerary urns were found; a coin of Gallus (debased metal), reverse, JOVI CONSERVATORI; a mortarium of white clay (of which an exact representation in form and size may be seen in Mr. Kempe's paper in the "Archæologia," vol. xxiv., plate 44, fig. 2, as found in Crooked Lane), Roman beads, fragments of Samian and other pottery. Immediately in front of the tavern, at the north end of Butcher Hall Lane, at a depth of 12 or 14 feet, I observed a portion of a wall, principally chalk, crossing the lane, apparently about 5 feet thick, and which I presume to be a continuation of the old London wall—a portion of which was discovered in making the foundations for the new French Protestant Church, Aldersgate Street, and which formed the subject of a paper by W. D. Saull, Esq., read to the Society of Antiquaries during last session; another portion of the wall (westward) presented itself beneath the Hall of Christ's Hospital.

*Cateaton Street and Lad Lane.*—Nov. and Dec. About eighteen months ago an excavation for a sewer was made in the former, in which various Roman remains were discovered. Within these few weeks a further excavation has been made, proceeding in the direction of Lad Lane, at which place the work is still in progress. Both these streets have been unusually prolific in the quantity and variety of the fragments of the fine black cinerary urns, bottles, amphoræ, glass bottle necks, Samian pottery, etc. In Cateaton Street, a few days since, was found a bowl of the latter material, between 9 and 10 inches in diameter, nearly perfect, exhibiting a boar hunt; and another in Lad Lane, less perfect, and apparently used for trituration,

\* These tiles are  $15\frac{1}{2}$  by  $10\frac{1}{4}$ , and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in thickness. They are marked at one end with a double semicircle. It is worthy of note that these tiles correspond in every respect with those of the remains of the Roman villa discovered at Duncton, near Bignor, in Sussex, in April, 1812.

† Our correspondent alludes to the Roman bronze of an archer noticed in our last number, p. 643. [Report of meeting of Society of Antiquaries.]



11 inches in diameter, with a mouth formed at the side in a rudely executed lion's head. A portion of a common red brick tessellated pavement was also found.

Yours, etc. E. B. P.

[1843, *Part I.*, pp. 190, 191.]

Since my last communication the discoveries illustrative of Roman London, during the excavation of Cateaton Street and Lad Lane, have presented a rather more interesting appearance, as indicating, by the extensive remains of tessellated pavements and massive walls, the site of edifices of some magnitude and probable importance. The common red-brick pavement (composed of 1-inch squares) mentioned in my last was found near the western extremity of Lad Lane. A little to the west of this, near Wood Street, was found another, of rather an unusual form, consisting of bricks 1 inch thick, and about 4 by 2 inches, placed at acute angles to each other, like the letter V, not unlike the appearance of what has been termed herring-bone masonry. Another presented itself on the west side of Wood Street, where the excavation has terminated. This pavement, of which considerable quantities (although not in any large blocks) have been rescued, is composed of white tesserae, averaging  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch square, beautifully put together, and apparently "pointed" with a fine red cement. There was no appearance of any design or pattern on any of the numerous fragments I have seen, beyond a line or border, composed of slate-coloured tesserae. It is ascertained that this pavement extends beneath St. Michael's Church.

The numerous fragments of the embossed Samian ware which have occurred during the progress of this excavation have exhibited great beauty and variety in their design. Perhaps the most remarkable is one representing the Roman tradition of the wolf suckling Romulus and Remus. Another fragment, evidently of a vessel of some elegance, contains the remnant of a leaden rivet, an illustration of the high esteem in which this pottery was held, even when fractured. Similar instances of this are recorded by Mr. C. R. Smith and Mr. Short ("Antiq. Exeter," p. 111.)

*Creed Lane.*—At the northern extremity of this lane a considerable quantity of fragments of Roman pottery and Samian ware have within these few days been disinterred. Some of the figured specimens of the latter exhibit much elegance and taste. Among some fragments of "mortaria" is one bearing the rude impress of



E. B. P.

[1843, *Part I.*, p. 520.]

Since my last communication on this subject, the various excavations still going on in the City of London continue to afford increasing evidence of the great extent of Roman occupancy in the metropolis.

Fragments of Samian pottery, cinerary urns, coins, etc., have been found in Shoemaker Row, Carter Lane, Broad Street, Liverpool Street, and Moorgate Street.

At the corner of *King's Arms Yard*, on the east side of Moorgate Street, in digging out the foundation for building, have been found fragments of black cinerary urns, and a portion of a tessellated pavement, composed of the common red brick squares, and the small white and grey tesserae. The labourer who discovered it has, with a taste not often observable among his fraternity, carefully collected all the fragments and laid them down in front of his own humble dwelling.

In a further excavation in this locality were found three mutilated specimens of Etruscan art; one is the remains of a lamp, the other two (varying in form) are cups (holding about three-quarters of a pint), with the remains of handles on either side. Several cherry stones and other seeds were found intermixed with earth and charcoal, adhering to the inside of the lamp. These vessels are composed of the usual pale red clay, with that fine black glaze so distinguishable in Etruscan pottery.

In *Liverpool Street*.—Samian pottery and coins (one of Aurelian, reverse "Hilaritas," a beautifully-executed female figure holding a palm branch and cornucopia); a tradesman's token, "John Sinnock, of Colchester. His Halfpenny, 1670," etc.

In *Half Moon Street*, Bishopsgate.—Samian pottery and small glass lachrymatory, etc.

In *West Smithfield*, at the entrance of Cloth Fair, was found an urn of the usual dark-gray colour, containing burnt bones and fragments of charcoal. The possessor, Mr. W. D. Saull, F.S.A., is of opinion that they are the remains of a child or youth, judging from the size of some portions of the skull and ribs. This, with a fragment of Samian ware (found in Cloth Fair, about 20 feet distant), are all the indications of Roman London in this district that have fallen under my notice.

[1843, *Part I.*, p. 636.]

Near the west end of Playhouse Yard, Blackfriars, by Apothecaries' Hall . . . [mediæval remains] . . . there were found the following Roman remains: A coin of Trajan, second size, head radiated, rev. female figure standing holding a cornucopia; a small one, "Urbs Roma," rev. wolf with Romulus and Remus; another nearly defaced, apparently a female head (Helena?), a few fragments of Samian and



other pottery, and a mutilated piece of sculpture with inscription, apparently commemorative of a soldier of the Second Legion.

E. B. P.

[1843, *Part II.*, p. 81.]

*Holborn Bridge.*—In excavating the ground at the south-east corner of the new street for the purpose of building, the soil presented all the indications of an alluvial deposit, such as might be expected from the site of the ancient bed of the once navigable river "Fleet." Fragments were also found in considerable quantity of Roman amphoræ, cinerary urns, Samian ware, etc., etc. On the same level also were numerous bucks' horns, chiefly of small size.

*Cateaton Street.*—In excavating the site of the Paul's Head for the erection of a large carpet warehouse, the discoveries have been of rather an interesting character to the antiquarian citizen, but as they have been already noticed in some of the public papers I shall but briefly allude to them. That there was anciently a building here of some importance and magnitude in the early period of the city's history (although not mentioned by our historians) is indicated by the immense walls of chalk and stone, which, from their extent and thickness, must have formed no slight addition to the labours of the excavators. Near the centre was found, at a depth of about 10 feet from the surface, a series of wooden piles; but for what purpose they had been placed there (except for the support of a flooring), was not apparent. There was no indication of any masonry having been erected on them. The Roman level presented the usual variety of broken pottery and Samian ware, some of the figured specimens of the latter exhibiting considerable elegance and chasteness, others rather the reverse of the latter characteristic. Two small pateræ of this beautiful ware have been found nearly perfect, bearing the potters' names, BVRDONIS and AVENTINI. [See *ante*, p. 197-198.]

*Paternoster Row.*—A large building on the west side of Canon Alley is now in course of erection for the Religious Tract Society. Fragments of Samian and other pottery of the Roman period have been found in abundance. Among the former is a portion of an unusually large patera, bearing the impress of ADVOSISI in large characters on the side. Coins—Faustina, large brass, same type as those found in St. Paul's Churchyard, July, 1841; Claudius, second size, and a third brass, apparently Commodus, but all in a very corroded state. A small portion of a tessellated pavement consisting of the small white and gray tesserae was found at the north-east corner, and apparently extended beneath the road.

*Butcher Hall Lane.*—Within these few days a farther extension of the sewer. On the Roman level have been found a portion of an immense antler, fragments of Samian pottery, mortaria, urns, etc., coins of Valens and Constantine, but scarcely legible.

E. P. B.



[1843, *Part II.*, pp. 416, 417.]

In my last communication to your pages on City Excavations, I briefly noticed a few of the antiquarian discoveries in *Butcher Hall Lane*; among them I should have included a small copper coin (plated), IMP. C CL. TACITVS—Rev. a female figure standing, LAETITIA. Also a fragment of a large amphora, with the impress of L·C·F·P·C·O·

*Water Lane, Tower Street.*—The recent excavation for sewerage in this district presented the same indications of Roman occupancy as were observed in the neighbouring street of St. Mary at Hill, in Jan., 1842, viz., an abundance of fragments of earthenware utensils, including portions of large amphoræ and bottles of various sizes, together with numerous fragments of Samian ware, one of the latter bearing the stamp "OF BASSI."

*Goodman's Fields.*—The discoveries from time to time in this locality, together with those of Whitechapel, Spitalfields, and its neighbourhood, have clearly demonstrated that for a very considerable extent the eastern side of the ancient boundary of London was appropriated as a burial-ground by the Romans. In the present instance, the excavation, which began at the western end of Great Alie Street, and extended right and left along Mansell Street, has afforded us additional testimony. Human remains, both burnt and unburnt, have been found upon the Roman level. Several of the dark grey urns of the usual form and character, containing burnt human bones and earth, have been taken up nearly perfect. On the same stratum were found various other relics, in glass, earthenware, etc. Also a coin of Hadrian (second size), but very much defaced.

*Bishopsgate Street Without* (near Sun Street).—Numerous fragments of Samian pottery: a patera nearly perfect bears the impress of "ATALI." Among the other potters' marks are "OF FACE"—"AVENTINI"—"OF VIRILI"—"OF NIGRI."

*Holborn Bridge* (the new street).—On a former occasion [*ante* p. 200] I sent you a few notes relative to this site, which it is presumed formed the eastern bank of the river Fleet. Preparations are now making for the erection of an adjoining building. It has been found necessary to go to a considerable depth for the foundation, in consequence of the peculiar character of the soil, which consists of a fine black mud, evidently an alluvial deposit at a period when the ancient inhabitants of London little dreamed that the then-navigable river Fleet would in after-ages degenerate into a filthy ditch. In this stratum were fragments of black cinerary urns, bottles, mortaria, Samian pottery, and animal remains; among the latter I observed a piece of a human skull. A portion of a large mortarium bears the stamp of SECVNDVS F (the first v within the c). Those also of "ABIANI"—"OF CALVI" and "PATRIS" occur on three of the fragments of Samian ware.

On one of the numerous pieces of black urns or vases are rudely cut the letters v w t. From the very equivocal appearance of the central one, it may either be intended for N (reversed, which is not uncommon), or, which is more probable, it may be vA in monogram. The preceding letters are unfortunately lost by the fracture.

At a depth of about 12 feet from the road the workmen came upon the remains of a well of from 3 to 4 feet diameter, formed of hewn stones most admirably fitted together with a cement almost as hard. It had all the appearance of having been filled up for ages.

In the collection of Mr. Walter Hawkins, F.S.A., is an anchor singularly encrusted with rust and pebbles, which is stated to have been found in Fleet Ditch, I believe during the alterations necessary for the new street, about three or four years ago. It measures 3 feet 10 inches in height, and is, with the possessor's permission, here represented.

In Brayley's "Beauties of England and Wales," published in 1810, vol. x., p. 70, it is stated (but upon what authority does not appear) that an anchor is traditionally said to have been found in this ditch as high up as the Elephant and Castle, where the road branches off to Kentish Town.

*Tooley Street* (Dover Railway Terminus).—In digging the foundation for the extension of these premises to St. Thomas's Hospital, still further evidence of Roman occupancy has been presented. The interesting discoveries in the immediate neighbourhood about three or four years ago, and which were communicated to the Soc. of Antiq. by Mr. C. R. Smith, have been already noticed in the *Gentleman's Magazine*. The present excavation is merely remarkable for the numerous fragments of Roman pottery, including portions of amphoræ, necks and handles of bottles of large size, glass, and fragments of Samian ware; among the latter, the remains of a beautifully formed cup with the impress of "PRIM · M," probably an abbreviation of "Primitivus," a name of frequent occurrence on this ware. Also a small terra-cotta lamp, with a crescent in relief. [See *post*, *sub voce* Surrey.]

E. B. P.

[1843, *Part II.*, pp. 532, 533.]

*St. Paul's Church Yard*.—Excavation for sewerage commencing at the south side, and extending in a westerly direction to the spot where the operations in July, 1841, terminated. The remains discovered on the present occasion have not been so distinguished, either in variety or interest, as those of the former, and which presented in their detail so remarkable a coincidence with the discoveries of Sir C. Wren when excavating for the foundation of the cathedral. This difference may in some measure be owing to the plan adopted in the present operation, of excavating short lengths, and tunnelling the intermediate spaces.



At a depth of 10 or 12 feet from the surface human remains in considerable quantity have been found, also a bone pin about 3 inches long, the head exhibiting a singularly grotesque representation of a human face, probably an ancient shroud-pin, of which several varieties in bone, ebony, and ivory, were found on the former occasion. At the usual depth a few fragments of Roman pottery presented themselves, chiefly of the red or Samian ware, one with the impress of "CIRRVS FEC," another "OF RVFI." On the west side, among other fragments of the same beautiful ware, was found the greater portion of a circular dish about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, exhibiting upon the rim the well-known pattern of the lotus leaf; also a small earthenware vessel, apparently a crucible. Among the coins found during the progress of the work, and which are mostly in a very corroded state, are two of Faustina, a Hadrian, several of Constantine, one of Crispus bearing the London "mint-mark" PLON, and Severus Alexander (plated), several abbey counters and tradesmen's tokens.

*Lothbury.*—In digging the foundation of premises adjoining those of Jones, Lloyd, and Co. we have had another illustration of the ancient plan of building on piles, five or six of which presented themselves at a depth of about 12 feet, penetrating from 5 to 6 feet. They were formed of oak, and were quite blackened by the boggy stratum in which they were embedded. From the ornamental character of the workmanship (being curiously fluted), it is presumed that they were originally destined for other purposes than piles. On the Roman level occurred numerous fragments of Samian ware, some of large size and curiously figured, one bearing the stamp of "CACAS. M," a terra-cotta lamp, two coins, Vespasian and Nero (second brass), a leather sandal, reticulated, and a number of leather soles of various sizes, studded with large-headed nails (or rather the remains of them). Those which fell under my observation in this case, as well as in others I have met with under similar circumstances in various parts of the city, exhibit the same appearance as to shape as those of modern times; and thus, although perhaps a thousand years and more may have rolled over them, we have evidence that the Roman denizens of Londinium were equally punctilious with ourselves in the due observance of "rights and lefts." Similar relics were found in excavating the site of the Royal Exchange, as appears by a paper in the "*Archæologia*," vol. xxix., by Mr. C. R. Smith, in which the writer quotes passages from Juvenal and Pliny in illustration of the practice of profusely inserting nails in the sandal soles. Their preservation appears to be owing to the peculiar moist character of the soil, for when dry they lose their elasticity, and become very brittle.

E. B. P.

[1843, *Part II.*, p. 639.]

*Bishopsgate Street Without.*—In my notices [*ante*, p. 201] I briefly mentioned the discovery of Roman remains in Bishopsgate Street



Without. The extensive operations then recently commenced in this street for sewerage, and which have since branched through a portion of the neighbourhood on the east side, have furnished us with some additional evidence of the same character. It has been before observed that the various discoveries from time to time in Goodman's Fields, Whitechapel, and Spitalfields, have afforded striking testimony of the appropriation, to some extent, of the east and north-east side of the boundary of ancient Londinium as a place of sepulture. In the present instance the excavation in Widegate Street and Artillery Lane, which are in the immediate vicinity of the last-named district, have presented some additional illustration in the numerous fragments of the black cinerary urns. I believe only one perfect one has been saved; this is of small size, and of the usual form and character. Numerous fragmentary specimens of Samian ware have been also disinterred, those of the embossed description exhibiting that same never-ending variety of pattern which seems to so characterize this beautiful ware. Some of them are remarkable for their elegance of design. The fragments bearing the potter's stamps which have fallen under my notice are so unusually numerous that I must not venture to occupy your space by a list. Perhaps the most remarkable are AETERNI. M. (reversed) "AISTIVI" and "IVL'NVMIDI," the last presenting the not frequent accompaniment of the prænomen. Among the few coins are those of Antoninus (second brass), Faustina, and Probus (third). Also a fragment of a terra-cotta lamp, exhibiting a rudely executed human head in relief: the name stamped upon the bottom is unfortunately rendered illegible by that far more "ruthless destroyer" than countless years—the labourer's pickaxe. The discovery of Roman antiquities not precisely falling within the objects of the contractors for the City sewerage, we can scarcely wonder in this or other cases at the preservation of so few objects illustrative of the history and customs of past ages. Among the objects of minor interest discovered in Bishopsgate Street may be mentioned a rosary of fifty-eight beads, to which is affixed a small crucifix (plated on copper) of beautiful workmanship; near it lay a leaden medal representing a half-length figure holding a crucifix, upon which he is intently gazing. It is inscribed B' ALOYS'GONZAGA'S I.\*

*Shoe Lane.*—At the south end (near its junction with Fleet Street) some fragments of Roman pottery were discovered in the recent excavation. Among them were several fragments of Samian ware. On the remains of two pateræ occur the stamps "OF PATRICI" and "PECVLARIS," the first two letters of the latter in monogram.

F. B. P.

\* In the collection of Mr. W. H. Rosser, F.S.A., is a rosary which was found upon the neck of a skeleton, *incased in the wall of a convent in Spain*, to which are suspended an ivory crucifix and two or three brass medals, and among them is a similar impression of Gonzaga.

[1840, *Part I.*, p. 420.]

*Bow Lane, Cheapside.*—While some workmen were excavating the carriage-way of Bow Lane, Cheapside, for a sewer, they discovered, at a depth of about 12 feet from the surface, near the corner of Little St. Thomas the Apostle, a human skeleton, embedded in a kind of coffin formed of tiles, three on each side. The remains were removed with great care to the library at Guildhall. The skull has a character resembling those at Hythe Church, supposed by Walker to be Roman. (See “*Physiognomy Founded on Physiology.*”) Between the teeth, which are of a beautiful white colour, was found a coin, of 2nd brass, but so much corroded that the Emperor’s head could not be recognised.

[1837, *Part I.*, p. 640.]

*Cheapside.*—Two stone coffins were found on the 14th January under the carriage-road opposite No. 16, Cheapside. They lay at the depth of 7 feet 6 inches beneath the present surface. Each contained a skeleton, placed with the feet towards the east. No covers were found; and one peculiarity of their construction is that the upper ends were formed into the segment of a circle. There was the usual cavity in each for the admission of the head of the corpse. It is not easy to determine whether these coffins are of the Romano-British or of the Saxon period; they are most probably, however, of the latter.

[1784, *Part II.*, p. 672.]

*Church Lane, Whitechapel.*—The account given in p. 485 of the Roman monument, lately in the possession of my worthy friend, Dr. Gifford, being inaccurate, I beg leave to submit the following history of it to your readers.

The stone alluded to was discovered, in digging a family vault, in 1776, in a burial-ground (then part of my leasehold) in Church Lane, Whitechapel, the end leading to Rosemary Lane. It lay near 6 feet under the surface of the ground, in a gravelly soil, flat, but not level, one edge being much sunk, the inscription uppermost; and under, or very near it, was a piece of ancient coin, which a spectator purchased for a trifle, but, on application made to him, would not part with it on any consideration. I immediately copied the inscription, and took it to the late Dr. Gifford, who desired I would send the stone to him, and he would give his opinion as to its value, and direct me as to the best method of disposal. I accordingly sent it. . . . The executors of the doctor, after his death, returned the stone, which is for the present deposited at Mr. King’s, undertaker, in the Old Bailey. See plate, fig. 5.

J. LANGFORD.



[1839, *Part II.*, p. 636.]

*College Street, Dowgate Hill.*—In excavating the ground for rebuilding Dyers' Hall, in College Street, Dowgate Hill, at 13 feet 8 inches below the level of the street, and just above the gravel, the remains were recently found of a Roman pavement, formed of small pieces of tiles about an inch square, bedded apparently on fine concrete. Two thin earthen jars or bottles were also found near the same spot, one of which is in a perfect state, and two coins nearly obliterated. The lower part of the ground in which the above were found, for 4 feet 6 inches in thickness, appeared to be the sediment or earthy matter from water, probably of the ancient Wallbrook, and in it, scattered over the surface, was a large quantity—20 cwt.—of animal bones.

[1833, *Part I.*, pp. 69, 70.]

*Eastcheap.*—The workmen who are employed in preparing the ground for the buildings to be erected at the south-east corner of Great Eastcheap are continually discovering vestiges of the former occupants of the site. Massy foundations of chalk have been revealed in the course of their operations. Somewhat deeper than these remains, and seated on the surface of the fine gravel bed on which London stands, are discovered the lower parts of Roman walls, solidly constructed of flint, much Samian ware, many coarse earthen pans, cups, and crucibles, some coins of Claudius, also a well (the top of which was 10 feet under the present surface of the street), neatly steined with squared chalk. Several wells of a similar construction have been found on either side of the Roman way running through Great Eastcheap. We lately observed one east of Miles's Lane, aligning with which was a fine fragment of Roman wall. All these circumstances denote that this portion of London was covered with buildings in the Roman times. In the demolition of the starlings of the old London Bridge, many coins, chiefly silver, of the Roman and the middle age are discovered. In one instance no less than two hundred Roman coins were found in the same hole, as if they were the contents of a lost purse or bag.

[1834, *Part II.*, p. 524.]

The workmen employed in digging for the foundations of the houses in the new street extending from Eastcheap to the Mansion House are daily bringing to light relics of our Roman predecessors. Only a few coins have been discovered, and these are in a very corroded state, as is the case with all that have been turned up in that neighbourhood. There are many fragments of pottery, both of the common sort and also of the Samian ware. The workmen lately



found a very fine amphora at the end of Eastcheap, which they managed to get out entire; but it fell to pieces after a few minutes' exposure to the air.

[1852, *Part I.*, p. 570.]

*Edgware Road.*—The opinion of Stukeley and others, that the straight road from Tyburn to Edgware was the Watling Street, receives a strong confirmation, at least so far as antiquity of description supports a long received belief, descending to us from a remote period, by the following legal record, viz. :—The inquisition\* taken after the death of William Frauncis of Paddington, gent., 2 Edw. 6, who held in capite lands in that parish, and in such inquisition parcel of those lands are thus described, *inter alia*. (Translation). “One messuage lying and being in Padyngton, in the county of Middlesex, viz.—between the highway called Watling Street, beyond the east side of the pond called Padyngton Pond. One other croft in Padyngton aforesaid, lying between the land late of Henry Prowdfoot, late of London, mason, and the ponds there called Padyngton Ponds, on the south side, and land late of John Colyns, on the north side, and abutting upon the king's highway called Watling Street, on the east side.”

Yours, etc. T. E. T.

[1834, *Part I.*, pp. 156-159.]

*Fenchurch Street.*—I take this opportunity of laying before your readers a short notice of some discoveries which were made in the autumn of 1833, during the progress of a sewer in Fenchurch Street. The works commenced in August, and were continued for several months; but the most important of the results occurred in the early part of the excavation.

The part of the street more particularly to be noticed is that which lies between Rood and Mincing Lanes, including the site of the former church of St. Gabriel, Fenchurch Street.

The following plan, taken from a larger and unpublished drawing, comprising the entire parish, for the use of which I am indebted to the kindness of Thomas Saunders, Esq., F.S.A., shows the site of the church, the whole of which was laid into the highway after the fire of London, and has been entirely developed in the course of the works of which I have occasion to speak.

The church, it will be seen, stood in the usual position with regard to the cardinal points, and was in consequence traversed in the whole length by the sewer. A wall of about 5 feet in thickness, composed of chalk and rubble, opposite to the Red Lion public-house, was evidently the western boundary to the church. At a distance of 76

\* Escaet' William Frauncis, 2 Ed. VI., p. 2, No. 34.

feet eastward was another wall, or rather a mass of building, about 14 feet in thickness, of which about 6 feet were composed of rubble and chalk, with a sort of bond of Roman brick, the remaining thickness of the mass being made up of brick and mixed materials of less antiquity, being probably the remains of some ancient vaults. The appearance of the whole would lead to the supposition that a tower had stood on the spot; but it does not appear that the church ever had arrived at the dignity of a steeple. This portion of masonry constituted the eastern end, which, as the plan shows, was semi-circular, and was probably of great antiquity.

Near to the extremity of Mincing Lane, a Roman mansion of some consequence appears to have been situated.

The walls of this structure were constructed of the same materials as the eastern wall of the church; but the Roman brick was rather more plentiful, and the floor of the building evidently marked the level of the Roman street, as the excavation, which was continued 8 feet deeper, now reached the virgin earth.

A short distance to the westward of this wall, and opposite to No. 132, Fenchurch Street (and I am now returning along the street in that direction), was a tessellated pavement of considerable extent: it was situated at the depth of 12 feet below the modern level. The pavement when entire was a good specimen of this kind of decoration; it was superior as well to that which is so often disturbed in St. Saviour's Churchyard, as to the specimen engraved in the excellent "History and Antiquities of St. Michael, Crooked Lane," p. 19.

I could only preserve entire a small piece, consisting of five tesserae; but I have enough of the design to show that the pavement was disposed in patterns formed in geometrical figures; these specimens are of hard tile, about an inch in the longer side, by half an inch in breadth, the thickness little more than the third of an inch; they are set in firm mortar, and are of three colours, viz.: tiles of dark red (the common Roman tile), sand colour, and gray or black, and one of a lozenge shape, of a hard white pebble. From the portion I have, it appears they were arranged in a circle about 11 inches in diameter, which was composed of red tesserae; in the angles were the sand coloured, relieved at intervals with the gray; the small white stone probably formed a centre, and other separate ones which I have are square, oblong, and wedge-formed, like keystones; the latter manifestly composed circles of small radii, or other curvilinear figures: one in particular of the wedge-formed pieces is grooved at each of the inclined faces, so that, when entire, it formed part of a circular ornament, having lines radiating from the centre.

A short distance westward, and nearly opposite to the entrance of the house, No. 36, in the street, was a very large and perfect pavement, wholly composed of the red tesserae, which came away in

compact portions; it was under the present foot pavement at the same depth as the former, and probably belonged to some part of the same dwelling.

I found among the ruins a small portion of the covering of the walls of this house; it was a piece of very hard and fine plaster, intermixed with small pebbles, and was painted of a fine lively vermilion, which, on the first turning up of the fragment, was very brilliant; it has since turned of a duller red than before.

The great depth of the ancient level of the city has often created a doubt which I think has not been satisfactorily solved. I think it may be accounted for upon the supposition that the streets were lower in the centre than at the sides, in the same manner as the highways at Chester are constructed. If this conjecture be correct, it is not difficult to account for the increase; the ancient level was in all probability preserved until the introduction of foot pavements, when it was raised by the addition of one or more layers of gravel. To this succeeded the immense accession of material which the rubbish of the great fire must have occasioned, and the subsequent additions made by the frequent pavements since that period; this suggestion will also account for the circumstance of small tobacco pipes being frequently found at a great depth below the modern level. These were, in all probability, deposited when the pavement was first laid, and the finding of them seems to corroborate the supposition that the rise of level began with the general use of pavements, as we cannot assign an earlier antiquity to these pipes than the reign of Elizabeth.

I would call your readers' attention to the account of the Roman discoveries in Lombard Street in 1785, and which are described in the "*Archæologia*," vol. viii., p. 127; and it is curious to observe how closely the remains then disclosed agree with those which were brought to light during the excavation which forms the subject of the present letter, as well in the nature as in the extent of the subjects disclosed.

I shall now proceed to enumerate the various remains of antiquity which have come into my possession. I have heard that many coins were found, but of such articles I always entertain a great degree of suspicion.

The handle of a bronze vase, and a portion of the body of the same; the former appears like two legs, and might be mistaken for the lower part of a statue. A portion of a mortar much worn at the bottom. A piece of a wall or ridge tile, resembling those described by A. J. Kempe, Esq., F.S.A.—xcix. pt. i., p. 401 [*ante*, p. 148].

A small vase, quite perfect,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height, of a sandy kind of pottery. It is marked by parallel rings, and has a wreath of slight leaves painted round the neck.



A glass bead of the sort denominated Druidical. Various fragments of Roman glass.

A great quantity of the red Samian ware, much fractured. I have several ornamented pieces, one of which is exceedingly curious. It represents in one compartment a combat of gladiators, and I am fortunate enough to possess the entire pattern.\* The combatants' headpieces are different in form; one has a rim like a morion, and much resembles a modern hat; the other is the Phrygian bonnet. The shields are square, and on the legs are greaves protecting the shins. Near the heads of the figures are birds, and the scene of the combat is indicated, by the presence of a rabbit and several shrubs, to be a field; the combat therefore appears to be rather a reality than the show of a circus; and I have only named them gladiators in consequence of their resemblance to some paintings so styled which were discovered in Pompeii. In a second compartment is a graceful youthful figure, naked, holding a pitcher.

Other fragments have the elegant remaining patterns so common in these interesting remains of ancient art, the vine leaf, etc.; the fragments that I have chiefly belonged to bowls.

The graceful moulded patterns, so often repeated in these works, are partly of an architectural, and partly of an arabesque character, the former being principally imitations of the egg and tongue moulding of the Ionic order. The patterns are disposed in parallel horizontal lines, and the great source of variety arises from the mode in which the lines are repeated, the patterns alternating in different specimens, sometimes appearing in the middle, sometimes in the upper, and at others in the lower lines, by which a few ornaments are easily changed, and made to form a great variety of patterns.

In almost every portion which I possess, a zig-zag ornament is apparent, which is identical with the chevron mouldings of our Norman churches; and it affords one out of many proofs, of the fact that what we call Norman is in fact debased Roman architecture, and which, were it not foreign to the present letter, I would endeavour to show had borrowed all its mouldings and detail from Roman architecture; and that not only the mouldings, but even the orders were imitated as closely as the skill of the builders allowed. If the presence of Roman ornament as a test of antiquity was adopted, little difficulty would exist in determining the age of Norman buildings, as they are called; and we should no longer hear the assertion that all our English buildings are of date posterior to the Conquest.

The potters' marks on several show that these articles came from the manufactories of the same individuals as those which have been here discovered in former times, and are detailed in the lists given

\* A small fragment of a similar pattern is engraved in "The History of St. Michael's, Crooked Lane;" the original is in Mr. Taylor's possession.

by Governor Pownall,\* Mr. Jackson,† and Mr. Kempe.‡ The specimens in my possession have the following—SECVNDI—VMICIO—ALBINIMA—OF SEVER—CRESTI, etc., etc.

Besides the above, I have some specimens of a fine pottery, very thin, and glazed of a black tint—the handle of an amphora, of red earth, of large dimensions. The remainder of my specimens of Samian ware consists of portions of small and elegant cups, and of pateræ or dishes, etc.

A funnel-formed pipe of red clay, many necks and handles of yellow pottery, and several other fragments. These are only a part of the vast quantity of Roman ware which was dug up in the progress of the works. The skull of an ox was turned up in the early period of the excavation, on or very near to the site of St. Gabriel's Church.

Beside the articles above enumerated, I have several others of more modern date. . . .

I have always entertained an opinion, that the ancient churches of the metropolis are in general built on the sites of Roman buildings of some importance ; this has been exemplified in numerous examples of former occurrence, and in those of St. Michael's, Crooked Lane, and St. Saviour's, in more modern times. To these may now be added St. Gabriel, as the remains of Roman occupancy which were discovered below the level of the church on the present occasion clearly prove.

The remains were chiefly found about the site of the church, and had nearly ceased as the excavation proceeded towards Gracechurch-street. I expected on its arrival at St. Benet's that a fresh accession of relics would be found, but this expectation was not realized by the result.

E. J. CARLOS.

[1833, *Part I.*, p. 549.]

*Holborn.*—A very remarkable discovery of Romain remains has recently been made opposite St. Andrew's Church, Holborn, in forming a sewer. A square enclosure of oak timber was found, in which were deposited a number of Roman urns.

This shows that a Roman way had its course in this direction ; from the known practice of that people to inter their dead by the roadside.

The line of this way may be very distinctly traced on the map of London and its environs. It crossed the Lea at Old Ford, ran between the Bethnal Green and Hackney Roads to Old Street Road, and proceeded in its course across the Old Bourne, to which, as a point of ancient transit, it gave an instinctive and appropriate name ; it passed in a straight line through St. Giles's, and its course was continued along the present Oxford Street to the westward.

\* "Archæol.," vol. v., p. 282. † *Ibid.*, vol. viii., p. 127. ‡ *Ibid.*, vol. xxiv., p. 190.

[1804, *Part I.*, p. 83.]

*Leadenhall Street.*—In the beginning of this month, some workmen digging to repair the pipes in Leadenhall Street, opposite the East India House, 10 feet below the surface of the street, struck upon something solid, which proved to be a beautiful Roman tessellated pavement, forming, when entire, a square of 9 feet in the centre of which, within an elegantly-adorned circle of about 3 feet diameter, was a figure of Bacchus, in a green mantle, holding in his left hand a thyrsus dressed with ivy, and in his right a goblet, his brows crowned with ivy, sitting on a tiger in full speed, his head inclined to the neck of the beast, who turns his head back at his rider. This circle is surrounded by three circular borders of different patterns, and in each angle is a cup with two handles. The margin to the wall was filled up with plain red tiles. The pavement has been raised in pieces, under the direction of Mr. Wilkins, librarian to the Company, and deposited, for the present, in a room adjoining the library, till it can be completely arranged and put together. Fragments of an urn, which contained a few bones, were found at the same time.

[1827, *Part II.*, p. 69.]

*London Bridge.*—In excavating the foundation of the new London Bridge, a considerable quantity of Roman coins, gold, silver, and brass, have been found, and one small silver statue, which has been deposited in the British Museum. A leaden figure of a horse was lately brought up, and is now in the possession of Mr. Knight, engineer. The execution of the head is admirable. The same gentleman has, amongst a considerable collection of remains, a curious specimen of ancient glazed tile, a number of rare Saxon coins, and a considerable quantity of counters and gun-money. The workmen, who at first considered all the coins they met with as being merely old halfpence, which were worth nothing because they would no longer pass, soon discovered their error, and have now all become connoisseurs. Mr. R. L. Jones, the Chairman of the Bridge Committee, has zealously obtained all he could, with the liberal intention of presenting his set to the Corporation, to form the nucleus of a collection in the new City Library. He has, besides, amongst a number of indifferent coins found some time since, one Roman coin, with the inscription *PLON* (*Pecunia Londini*), which is supposed to have been struck in the metropolis. The most frequent of the Roman coins are those of Antoninus Pius. Saxon and old English coins have been found in great abundance, together with many ancient implements, warlike, sacerdotal, and domestic. To guard against impositions and the dispersion of the articles found, the workmen have, we understand, been directed to deposit all they discover with Mr.



Knight. When the fact of the discovery is properly authenticated, they receive a fair compensation for the treasure, whatever it may be.

[1806, *Part II.*, p. 792.]

*Ludgate Hill.*—Receiving information the beginning of this month that some Roman antiquities had been dug up on the 15th of July at the back of the London Coffee-house, Ludgate Hill, where additions to the house are making, I immediately attended, and viewed the following particulars.

Fig. 1.—Head of a female (large as life); the features homely; the eyes and upper part of the forehead destroyed.

Fig. 2.—Hercules (half-size of life). The figure is resting on his club; the lion's skin is thrown over the left shoulder. The attitude is elegant, and the limbs are effeminate. The sculpture fine; and it is to be regretted that the head, right arm, and legs, are wanting.

Fig. 3.—An altar or pedestal (height 3 feet  $10\frac{3}{4}$  inches; width 2 feet 6 inches). The plan an hexagon. The upright gives a plinth with mouldings of two fillets, and an ogee. The cornice has three fillets, two hollows, and a plat-band. The top of the design takes a large hollow uniting with a large torus; and on that side where the inscription is presented, the torus is enriched with scrolls and flowers.

The inscription: [Huebner, p. 23]

D. M.  
CL. MARTIN [MARTI]  
NAE. AN. XL [XIX]  
ANENCLI  
TVS  
PROVINC  
CONIVGI  
PIENTISSIME  
H. S. E.

The coffee-house stands on the site of Ludgate; from which gate ran on either side, north and south, London Wall. Considerable portions of the wall still exist at the back of the houses on each side of the hill. Notwithstanding the new accommodations making, much of the wall was yet waiting to be demolished; and I found portions of a circular staircase, and a circular tower. Between those objects, at about 3 feet from the pavement, the above relics were found, seeming (according to information) as if thrown in, in order to make up the materials for constructing London Wall.

Yours, etc. J. C.

[1831, *Part I.*, p. 95.]

*Monument.*—We have been favoured with the following statement from a correspondent signing H. P.

The notice of Roman antiquities in the November magazine induces me to communicate an account of some Roman works which

were discovered in sinking a cesspool not far from the Monument, southward, and at the back part of some newly-erected fruit-warehouses in Pudding Lane. The depth of the cesspool was about 22 feet from the surface of the pavement at that part of the hill. After removing the old walls, most of which were evidently the original foundations of the buildings prior to the Great Fire, we found an encrustation which was spread over the surface of the ground, and consisted of stone and brick broken very fine and mixed with lime; it was about 9 inches deep and excessively hard. This was clearly an artificial footing on which the walls had been erected; beneath it was a loosed mixed ground; below this was discovered the remains of an aqueduct running towards the River Thames southward, and communicating with a bath or tank northward. The sides of the aqueduct were composed chiefly of yellow Roman tiles (some were red); they measured from 16 to 17 inches in length by  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches in width, and were 2 inches thick; the bottom consisted of similar tiles turned up a little on each side, measuring in the clear 12 inches by 18 inches in length. The south wall of the tank was built with similar tiles, was coated inside with plaster, and lined with small pieces of stone  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch square, cemented together similar to tessellated work. We had intended to have laid open the whole of the tank, but that we were so much inundated with water. There was also a transverse watercourse on the east side of the aqueduct, consisting of semicircular tiles 17 inches long and 4 inches in the clear diameter, placed one on the other, forming a complete barrel. The joints between the tiles of the tank and aqueduct were an inch in thickness, and were composed of a mixture of fine gravel with lime. I have preserved specimens of the several parts of this work.

The discovery affords another striking proof of the extent of Londinium Romanum eastward. The building described was probably a portion of some baths of importance. The tiles which formed the bottom of what is termed by our correspondent the aqueduct, were Roman proof tiles (see one represented in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for May, 1829, plate ii., p. 401). The duct or barrel pipe was composed of Roman ridge tiles (see a specimen in the same plate). These channels were probably contrived for supplying the bath with water, and for carrying off the excess when it was full. They were below the high water level of the river. The cistern was a natatio, or swimming bath. The adjoining floor was probably that of the apodyterium, where the bathers undressed (*Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. ciii., pt. i., p. 122), it was composed of a thick stratum of arenatum, or compound of coarse gravel and lime, and a super-stratum about an inch in depth of tesseratum or pounded tile, etc. The sides and bottom of the cistern were tessellated with small cubes of alabaster or marble, which circumstance plainly shows that the baths were of a very costly description.

[1837, *Part II.*, pp. 361, 362.]

*Moorgate*.—I forward you a sketch of a Roman sepulchral inscription discovered a few days since by the excavators for the new sewer at London Wall, near Moorgate, at about 18 feet from the surface. The stone is 12 inches square and about 3 inches thick. Its æra of deposit, judging from its general character and collateral evidence, may be assigned, probably, to the time of Antoninus Pius, or to a period not far subsequent.

The present object of our notice, which is the only one of the kind that has been brought to light in London within the scope of my personal observation, if not very important in a general historical point of view, is highly interesting to the antiquarian topographer.

The reading presents no difficulty of solution. [Huebner, p. 23.]

DIIS MANIBUS.

GRATA, DAGOBITI FILIA, (VIXIT) ANNOS QUADRAGINTA.

SOLINUS CONJUGI KARISSIMÆ FIERI CURAVIT.

The name Grata is often met with in ancient inscriptions. Solinus also occurs; but the word Dagobitus I do not perceive either in Gruter, Reinesius, Muratori, nor in some other writers that I have referred to. Setting aside the well-known Dagobertus, the nearest resemblance I can find to this name, which is evidently of Gaulish or British origin, is in that of Dagodubnus, a potter, on a fragment of Samian ware in my possession, which was found also in London. The stone, I understand, has fortunately been secured for our City museum in Guildhall.

Yours, etc. CHARLES ROACH SMITH.

[1850, *Part II.*, p. 114.]

*Nicholas Lane*.—As the workmen employed by the contractor under the Commissions of Sewers were excavating in the centre of Nicholas Lane, on the 29th of June, at the depth of about 11 feet, they discovered a large slab with the following Roman inscription in well-cut letters, 5 or 6 inches in length: [Huebner, p. 22]

NVMC . . .

PROV . . .

BRITA . . .

It is doubtful whether the fourth letter in the first line be a c or an o. The stone is in fine preservation, and others might have been discovered had the slightest exertion been made; but the excavators were not permitted to turn either to the right or to the left, notwithstanding a gentleman offered to pay any expense incurred by the research.

[1841, *Part II.*, p. 498.]

*St. Clement's Lane*.—The recent excavation of St. Clement's Lane has brought to light numerous relics of the Roman age. Several



cinerary urns (black), lamps, beads, fragments of amphoræ and dishes (one of the latter having the maker's name *ALBINVS*), abundance of the Samian pottery, and common red brick tessellated pavement; coins of Vespasian, Domitian, Constantine, Gordianus, Faustina, Carausius, etc.

Yours, etc. E. B. PRICE.

[1841, *Part II.*, pp. 263-265.]

*St. Paul's Churchyard.*—A new sewer was commenced in the beginning of last month. It began at the north-east corner of St. Paul's Churchyard (in front of the Cathedral Coffee-house), and extended as far as Canon Alley. During the excavation, several objects of interest to the antiquary have been turned up. At the commencement was found, at a depth of 19 or 20 feet, a pavement consisting of about fifty square tiles, varying from 7 to 8 inches square; and four or five large ones 23 inches square, about 3 inches thick. One of these latter has four holes perforated in it, as though it had been used to drain off water. A curious old sword was also discovered, about 3 feet long (at what depth I have not been able to ascertain). It had evidently suffered from the action of an intense fire; fragments of fine charcoal are still adhering to it. Upon rubbing a portion of the blade, near the hilt, characters appeared. The only portions legible were, on one side, *IC*; on the other, *SC*. Numerous other fragments of iron were also found, of singular form. One appears to have been a dagger or dirk—it is about 14 inches long. There are four rings attached to it, which, on filing, prove to be brass. This, also, with various other fragments, have all suffered from fire, and have pieces of charcoal firmly adhering to them. Numerous fragments of the fine red or Samian pottery have been found, but none of very large size; and, although so numerous, very few seem to belong to any one vessel. Several of them are the bottoms of vases or bowls, and contain inscriptions. One is *REGALIS*, another *BATERA*, which latter, I presume, denotes its use as a sacrificial bowl. Some of the pieces are profusely ornamented. There was, also, a curious jug found embedded in the soft clay. It is nearly perfect, and from its shape and the locality, I have no doubt is of Roman manufacture. It is of a light colour, and has evidently been richly glazed, and is fancifully ornamented with waved lines. I estimate it to hold about four or five quarts. I have also the fragment of another, of lighter colour, but which must have been of much larger size. Various coins have been turned up. Among others I have obtained are (copper) Carausius, Constantius, Claudius, Nerva, Magnentius, Faustina, Domitian, Antoninus—obverse of the latter, *SPOR OPTIMO PRINCIPI*; and several thin brass coins with German inscriptions, known, I believe, by the name of Abbey Counters; also two curious copper rings (quære the ancient "ring money"). I regard

the one of Carausius\* as curious, inasmuch as it is supposed to be the first British coinage during the Roman sway. On the obverse is a centaur. Several mutilated specimens of mosaic have been got up; but, unfortunately, there have been no perfect pieces of large size. The largest was about 8 or 9 inches square, but by a careless accident was broken all to pieces. It had evidently been a portion of a beautiful pavement. It was composed of the small pieces of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch square, white, green and red. There were also fragments of the larger size (red), varying from  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, which (judging from other specimens of this ingenious art) I presume formed the outer border.

As might be expected from such a locality—so noted in history as a burial-ground of Romans, Saxons, and Britons—vast quantities of human bones have been disinterred. There is, however, a peculiarity about the teeth in many of the skulls, which is worth noting, as I have met with no parallel instance excepting in those skulls which have been found in the Sussex barrows—I allude to the remarkably smooth surface of the teeth, as though they were filed. I should be glad if some of your readers could furnish me with some explanation of this.

E. B. PRICE.

[1848, *Part I.*, pp. 293, 294.]

*Lower Thames Street.*—During the excavations now being made for a new Coal Exchange in Lower Thames Street, Mr. Henry Nixon, the clerk of the works, observed indications of Roman remains, which he closely watched as the men proceeded, and was thus enabled to give due notice to those likely to be interested of a very important discovery. The spot is opposite the north-west corner of the Custom House, and about 12 feet below the level of the street. Through the kindness of Thomas Lott, Esq., the chairman, and the Committee of the New Coal Exchange, and of the architect, J. B. Bunning, Esq., every facility has been afforded for antiquaries and artists to inspect the remains for the space of three weeks. Their exhibition to the public being now closed, I desire to commit my observations to your pages for preservation.

Having taken perspective views of the remains, as also measurements of every part, I will describe their character. They will range under the following characters, first, the frigidarium, or cold bath; second, the tepidarium, or tepid bath; third, the laconicum, or sweating bath; and the fourth, the caldarium, or hot bath. The example in Thames Street appears to be of the third denomination. This laconicum measured 14 feet each way, with a bow front westward. There was a seat capable of holding two persons, formed of tiles and situate at the east side, joining the south-east corner; beside

\* A gold one about the same size was purchased by Mr. Symonds for £150, and is now in the British Museum.—*Vide Penny Encyclopedia*, art. "Aureus."



this seat, to the north, was an opening as for a passage from the east. This doorway is about 3 feet from the north-east angle of the room, and is plainly indicated by a wall, part of which remains, but which extends only a few feet westward; beyond this vestige there is no wall remaining above the floor until a remnant before referred to as existing at the south-east corner. The flooring was composed of lime and pounded brick, exceeding hard, and 4 inches thick, laid on tiles  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches thick, and 2 feet square. These tiles rested on piers beneath, composed of fourteen smaller tiles  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches square and about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick. The piers were 1 foot 4 inches apart, and thus, when covered in by the larger tiles, formed divers passages of 1 foot 4 inches wide and 1 foot 8 inches high, for the hot air proceeding from the furnace or stove, which is supposed to have been eastward, as a broad channel of 3 feet wide, lessening to 1 foot 10 inches in its progress, to the extent of 14 feet eastward, would indicate. This broad channel has three piers in its centre, and by two diverging passages, each 1 foot 3 inches wide, emitted the heat regularly beneath the flooring. The space on each side of the centre piers of this passage was only 7 inches when about 9 feet up, consequently could only be examined by means of measuring rods, with a light attached thereto; but beyond 14 feet, examination, even by this means, could not be obtained, as the passage appeared choked up.

The wall that separated the laconicum from a room southward was 2 feet 6 inches thick, and, like all the other walls, formed of Roman tiles and a thick layer of mortar; the tiles generally run 1 foot 3 inches by 12 inches, and are 2 inches thick (the foundation of the west end of the laconicum is Kentish rag). This wall turns at a right angle to the south, after forming a portion of the south side of the laconicum for 8 feet, and continues 23 feet southward, forming the west side of this the adjoining room, and then turns to the east for 4 feet, inward measurement; the width of the south and west sides is 3 feet; the north and south walls lose themselves under the adjoining premises to the east. The highest portion left standing of the wall of this south room was about 3 feet, but it appeared to be founded 4 feet below the pavement, which was of common red tesserae. The space uncovered measured 23 feet long by 4 feet wide at the south end, and 8 feet wide at the opposite; its real extent is unknown, as the excavations are not to proceed further eastward.

One peculiarity observed in the mass of earth to the east I cannot omit observing; it is an horizontal line of dark-red composition, not tesserae, but a regular bed of 2 inches thick, very hard, running in an even line the whole length of the room, and about 11 inches above the flooring, while the space between the two is composed of a regular layer of concrete. From this appearance I am led to conclude that another flooring, 1 foot 1 inch, was originally laid above the tesserae.



Whether the tide came up from the Thames and occasioned this we know not, but I saw it rise nearly to that mark about ten days since, and the man who had the charge of these remains informed me that, at four o'clock the preceding Tuesday morning, it rose more than a foot above the pavement of tiles. About midway between the north and south ends of this room there is a projecting well, fully 4 feet out from the earth, resting on a circular bond timber, of elm, 9 inches by 6, which rests on the red line above referred to; the superstructure is 11 feet from bottom to top; the lower half composed of chalk, very evenly squared, while the other half is of bricks, roughly put together. There appears to have been added, by made ground, 3 feet above the well's mouth, which mouth comes exactly on the level of Thames Street. The diameter of this well is 2 feet 1 inch within; it is evidently of a comparatively recent date; and, as the tides have risen even with the bottom of this well, as I have before stated, the question remains, whether it was for a supply of water for the common purposes of the adjoining area, which is about 25 feet square, surrounded by warehouses,\* every tide; or supplied from a land spring, which is now diverted to another well of a greater depth.

There are traces of other Roman walls northward of the laconicum, viz., one appears in the earth eastward 9 feet; another 10 feet from that again, still northward; the south-west angle of which was standing about 14 feet south from the last named, and probably joined therewith, as the remaining portions ran in such directions as would meet. Mr. Charles Roach Smith, F.S.A., informs me that he observed towards the east end of this wall several feet of red tesserae. There are indications of another wall still further north, which apparently ran north to south, and at the eastern limit appears still another, buried in the earth, and thus we may conclude that at least three rooms have been destroyed northward of the two described.

Yours, etc. ALFRED JOSEPH STOTHARD.

[1843, *Part I.*, p. 607, 608.]

*London Wall.*—It is much to be regretted that the citizens of London should exhibit such a total apathy with regard to the preservation of the ancient walls of their city. It is with great difficulty that any relic of these ancient structures can be discovered by the curious inquirer; and even the few portions which have escaped destruction, from the joint effects of cupidity and neglect, are rapidly giving way to repeated "improvements," so that in a very few years scarcely a fragment will remain above ground.

The most considerable of the existing portions of the wall, retaining

\* The south side of this area was formerly the Old Dog, in Lower Thames Street, a house of considerable note. Its carved entrance is still standing.

the original elevation, and in consequence giving a very good idea of the ancient boundary, consist of a lofty stone wall, near Postern Row, Tower Hill, and a very fine circular bastion, with flanking walls, in Cripplegate Churchyard, the latter exhibiting palpable evidence of Roman work in its construction. The first of these portions is now threatened with partial, if not entire, destruction, as the City have granted its site for building an additional church; and to make way for this erection the ancient wall, one of the few and scanty relics of old London, is to be sacrificed.

The custom of building churches on the rampart or terrace of earth within the walls of cities is by no means uncommon. In London there were several such erections, two of which, Allhallows-on-the-Wall, and St. James-on-the-Wall, or Lamb's Chapel, are still in use, though rebuilt.\* In these instances the ancient wall is incorporated with that of the church; and the same probably occurred at the now destroyed church of St. Augustine-on-the-Wall.

The masonry is in a fine state of preservation, and is so remarkable for its construction as to require a particular description:—it consists of alternate courses of square and flat stones, the height of the former being about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and of the latter  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches; the joints are neat and closely laid, the stone of a good quality, and a few thin tiles are intermixed. The following is a sketch of a portion.

The same description of masonry is to be found in the interior of the semicircular bastion in Cripplegate Churchyard, and in the portion of the wall there existing another sort of construction will also be remarked, in which a single course of tile alternates with square stones.

The masonry at Tower Hill having but few tiles cannot claim an antiquity so high as the Roman dominion, and it is not perhaps older than the Norman period.

What a forcible contrast to the proceedings of the London Corporation is afforded by the comparatively recent renovation of the walls of York. In 1831 a liberal subscription was set on foot, aided by the Corporation; the ancient boundary was completely restored, and a fine promenade on the walls was gained. A simple inscription on one of the towers records the fact so creditable to the northern metropolis; and would that those members of the London Corporation who could coolly propose, and scoffingly advocate, the destruction of any part of the wall of that city, had their deed of Vandalism recorded on a tablet erected in some conspicuous part of the new church so soon to supplant the levelled wall!

The height and general appearance of the relic we have described entirely coincide with Dr. Woodward's measurements of the ancient wall of London as given in his letter to Sir Christopher Wren.

\* Silchester Church [*ante*, p. 118] appears to stand on the ancient wall of that station.

One curious feature attending this portion of the wall is that the face is towards the city, and it is remarkable that the boundaries of the city and county of Middlesex are at this point divided by a sort of dovetail intersection, and not by a straight line. It will not be easy to account for this circumstance at the present time, but in all probability it was occasioned by a large tower having existed at this point previous to the first construction of the wall.

These few remarks are thrown together from personal observation, rather with the view of preserving a remembrance of one more of the remains of the ancient metropolis which have ceased to exist than in the indulgence of a vain hope that they may conduce to the preservation of the devoted structure.

E. I. C.

[1861, *Part I.*, p. 646.]

*Roman Wall.*—We have been requested to reproduce in our pages the following letter, which was recently addressed to the editor of the *Times* :—

“Sir,—Some remarks having appeared in your journal with reference to the old Roman wall of London, a portion of which is laid bare at the corner of Aldgate and Jewry Street, I feel called upon to forward to you the following details with reference thereto, and shall be obliged by your giving them space in your columns.

“The wall was laid open by reason of the excavations necessary for the foundation of new premises for Messrs. E. Moses and Son, which are being carried out under my superintendence by Messrs. Ashby and Horner, the builders.

“The wall ran across the front of our ground in a straight line, in a direction very nearly north and south, having a slight inclination from the east of north to the westward of south, passing under the front wall of the Three Tuns Tavern, in Jewry Street, at the south end (in the cellars of which large portions are visible), and, if produced northwards in a straight line, would pass under the party-wall dividing Nos. 2 and 3, Aldgate, occupied by Mr. Mills and Mr. Firth.

“The west face of the wall at the south end is exactly flush with the front of the external wall of the Three Tuns, and is of a uniform thickness from top to bottom of 8 feet.

“We have removed the whole of the wall from the level of the street-paving (just under which it was found) down to its lowest foundation, resting upon the maiden clay of London.

“The lowest stratum was of flints embedded in puddled clay, 4 feet 3 inches thick, and of such very tenacious consistency that a pickaxe made but little impression beyond moving a few flints at a



time. The object of this course was to keep down the damp from the superstructure.

"Then came a layer of Kentish rag (and other stone), random rubble-work, grouted in with hot liquid mortar, 2 feet 6 inches thick; this, and indeed every part of the wall, built in the strongest manner, and requiring sledge-hammers and iron wedges to break it down.

"Upon the ragstone was laid a bond-course, consisting of three rows of red tiles, breaking joint longitudinally and transversely, each tile being 1 foot 4 inches long by 12 inches wide and 1 inch thick (all average dimensions of several tiles). This bond-course, with its mortar joints, measured 6 inches high.

"Then came 3 feet 3 inches of rubble same as last, and a bond-course of two rows of tiles above it, measuring 4 inches high; then 2 feet 8 inches of rubble, and finishing just under the paving with another bond-course of a single row of tiles, measuring with its joint 2 inches. There may have been more than one row of tiles here, as the wall of the public-house is built upon it, and they may have been removed. The total height of the wall, therefore, from the bottom of the flints to the top of the upper course of the tiles, is 11 feet.

"Appearances of a counterfort, or buttress, were observed in one instance upon the east side of the wall, or that next to the ditch. Neither side had any faced stones upon the surface of the wall, but under the tavern the portions are faced with coursed stones on both sides, filled in with rubble backing. This and other reasons give an air of probability to the supposition that the old gate stood about in the same position now occupied by the 'Three Tuns.

"The London clay dips down from the wall; eastward, to the Irongate-sewer, running parallel to the wall, and about 50 feet distant, the space from the clay up to the surface of the soil upon which the old vaults stood being composed of a fine alluvial soil, with quantities of animals' bones therein, the soil being apparently the filling-in of the old ditch. The Irongate-sewer probably occupies the lowest level of the ditch, and is now the only trace of it here.

"I remain, Sir, yours obediently,

"57, Fenchurch Street, May 8." D. A. COBBETT, Architect.

## Monmouthshire.

### CAERLEON.

[1835, *Part I.*, pp. 599-602.]

My attention has lately been directed by my friend, Samuel Cowper Brown, Esq., of Lewisham, F.S.A., to his facsimile copies of some Roman inscriptions which he recently had seen at Caerleon, in Monmouthshire.

In the time of Giraldus Cambrensis, who wrote an account of the journey of his metropolitan, Archbishop Baldwin, through Wales, to

preach the crusade towards the close of the twelfth century, the City of the second Legion, long before abandoned by its founders, presented, after ages of decay, splendid vestiges of its former grandeur and importance. "Passing," says the honest monk, "from thence [from Usk] to Caerleon, and leaving far on our left hand the castle of Monmouth, and noble forest of Dean, situated on the other side of the Wye and Severn, and which amply supplies Gloucester with iron and venison, we spent the night at Newport, having crossed the river Usk three times. Caerleon is called the City of Legions; Caer, in the British language, signifying a city or camp, for there the Roman legions were accustomed to winter, and from that circumstance it was called the City of Legions. This city was of undoubted antiquity, and handsomely built of brick by the Romans; many vestiges of its former splendour may still be seen. Immense palaces, ornamented with gilded roofs, in imitation of Roman magnificence, a tower of prodigious size, remarkable hot baths, relics of temples and theatres, enclosed by walls, parts of which remain standing. You will find on all sides, both within and without the circuit of the walls, subterraneous vaults and aqueducts, and, what I think worthy of notice, stoves constructed with wonderful art to transmit the heat insensibly through narrow tubes" [*post*, p. 226]. A modern tourist in Wales has explained Giraldus's gilded roofs, by observing, that some of the Roman tiles bear marks of a metallic incrustation, with which their surface glitters and shines. I have myself seen fragments of Roman pottery of a similar description. An inscription at Vienna, in Dauphiné (the Vienna Allobrogum of the Romans), transcribed by Montfaucon in his Italian diary, shows that the ancients sometimes adorned their buildings with tiles of gilded bronze, of which the gilded tiles of baked clay were probably imitative. The tower of prodigious size, mentioned by Giraldus, is now only marked out by the lofty mound on which it was erected: it stands on the river side, without the lines of the Roman circumvallation, and might, perhaps, be the fort originally erected by the Britons. The theatre, or rather amphitheatre, may still be distinguished by a spacious hollow a few yards distant from the city wall. The situation of the Vomitories, Mr. Brown tells me, may be distinctly traced. The columns of a Roman temple are said, to this day, to support the market house at Caerleon. The subterranean ruins of hypocausts, and the tessellated floors of villas, are discovered occasionally in the surrounding country, and thus the topographical veracity of the venerable Giraldus is completely borne out. I proceed to detail the inscriptions communicated to me by Mr. Brown. The first was found in a field north-west of Caerleon, near a place called Merrylands, which he suggests is a corruption of Muri-lands, being adjacent to the city wall. The inscription is on a tablet of stone, 19 inches by 14. Mr. Brown transcribes it thus: [Huebner, p. 40]

D. — M.  
 Q . IVLI . SEVERI  
 DINIA . VETERANI  
 L . G . II . AVG . C<sup>o</sup>NJ<sup>o</sup>VX F . C .

Between the D and M is sculptured the pointed leaf of ivy, with which Roman altars and sacred vessels are so commonly adorned; probably every object distinguished by this mark was of a sacred character. The inscription may be read at length: "Diis Manibus Quinti Julii Severi Dinia veterani Legionis secundæ Augustæ conjux fieri curavit." The sepulchral memorial was therefore erected by Dinia, or Diana, to her husband Quintus Julius Severus, a veteran of the Second Legion. The second stone, about 4 inches in length, is in the possession of Mr. Pritchard, of Caerleon: its characters are certainly more difficult of solution; they stand thus: [Huebner, p. 40]

CHOR VI HAS ERRK [HAST PRI]  
 .. ROF [E] S MODER

which I read "Cohors Sexta Hastata crexerunt caro fratri suo Moderato,"—a monument of the spearmen of the Legion to a companion in arms. The third tablet is thus inscribed: [Huebner, p. 40]

COH. II.  
 VALENTI. [VALERI] FL  
 AVV

If this be a sepulchral memorial, we must read the last letters, "annos vixit quinque," and consider it the monument of Valens Flavius, a child of that age. Some years since, several large cubic altar stones, inscribed, were found in the north-west corner of Caerleon churchyard. On the face of one of these was the legend\* N. N. AVG. GENIO. LEG. II. AVG., on the back D. D. VIII. KAL. OCTR, which I suppose may be read "Nostrorum Augustorum Genio Legio secunda August dedicaverunt," etc.

The handle of a vessel of Samian ware, examined by Mr. Brown, is interesting, as it belonged probably to one of the sacred vessels of a temple of Jupiter. It was stamped D. O. M. S. "Deo Optimo Maximo Sacrum;" and the above assertion is corroborated by the fact that a few years since an altar of reddish stone, brought from Caerleon, was sold at Thomas's Auction Rooms, on which I read the initials I. O. M. ("Jovi Optimo Maximo"). That there was also a temple of Diana at Caerleon, a statue of that goddess discovered in 1602, and the following inscription preserved by Camden, will show—[Huebner, p. 37]

F. FLAVIUS POSTUMIUS VARUS  
 V. C. LEG. TEMPL. DIANÆ  
 RESTITUIT.

—implying that the fifth cohort of the Legion prepared her temple. We have, in the inscriptions detailed, notice of three cohorts of the

\* Communicated to me by T. C. Croker, Esq., F.S.A.



above-named Legion, styled, in addition to its "August" title, *Britannica*, for its eminent services in our island. In the reigns of Hadrian, Antoninus, and Severus, it was quartered in the North, and was employed in constructing the well-known barriers against the Picts. During the latter period of its sojourning in Britain, it was quartered at Rhutupæ (Richborough, in Kent), whence, on the decline of the Roman power, it embarked for the Continent.

A. J. K.

[1847, *Part II.*, p. 411.]

On the 8th July a stone coffin (doubtless Roman) was discovered by men who were excavating for the Monmouth and Hereford line, about a quarter of a mile from Caerleon, on the road to Usk. A drawing of it has been forwarded to us, which shows that it was 6 feet 2 inches long, 24 inches wide at the shoulders, 11 inches at the top, and 10 inches at the bottom. The sides were about 3 inches thick and the bottom  $3\frac{3}{4}$ . The lid was hollowed out to fit on to the coffin. The stone is oolitic, quite different from any to be found in the neighbourhood, and in good preservation. The coffin contained a skeleton and a small glass bottle with a very small neck.

[1866, *Part I.*, pp. 471-477.]

Caerleon, the City of Legions—which in the days of the Roman era lived in purple and fine linen, and commanded the respect and envy of all western Britain—is now an unnoticed and quiet little town, utterly eclipsed by the activity and bustle of Newport, its seafaring neighbour—a short 3 miles only separating the railways and docks, ships and wharves of the latter from the (so-called) Round Table of Arthur, the baths and villas of the Augustan army. No castellated tower, no ruined aisle of abbey, betokens to the passer-by its claims to antiquity: its treasures, like those of geology, are subterranean, and have been revealed only by the peculiar contour of the ground, by the accidental ploughshare of the farmer, or the excavations of the builder. And it has also this singularity, that whereas the remains which have been disinterred have been numerous, and show the social condition of the times in which they existed, almost as plainly as though we saw the people coeval with them, the history of Caerleon, as regards these particular times, is a blank; and whereas, in most places, tradition is all we have to go by, here it is reversed—the tangible is before us, while the tradition is—nowhere. It is not surprising, therefore, that older writers, who had not the realities to instruct them—and who, perhaps, if they had, would not have understood them—should have drawn largely on their imaginations, and painted the glories of Caerleon in much more glowing terms than ever really appertained to them. For instance, Giraldus, who had all that

persuasive eloquence and that delightful facility of exaggeration which is an attribute of the thoroughbred Celt, would have us to know that the magnificence of Caerleon rivalled that of an Eastern city. "A very ancient city this was," saith he, "and enjoyed honourable privileges—elegantly built by the Romans, with brick walls. There are yet remaining many footsteps of its ancient splendour : stately palaces, which formerly, with their gilded tiles, emulated the Roman grandeur—for that it was at first built by the Roman nobility and adorned with sumptuous edifices ; and an exceedingly high tower, remarkable hot baths, ruins of ancient temples, theatrical places, encompassed with stately walls, which are partly yet standing."

The "gilded tiles," in particular, must have been a pure freak of imagination, as, if there ever had been any, nothing could have been left of them after that lapse of time ; neither was there any historical tradition to corroborate his assertion [*ante*, 223]. Moreover, Henry of Huntington, who wrote half a century before, says that the walls were not then standing, which causes us to regard the statement of Giraldus *cum grano salis*.

The old Roman name for Caerleon was Isca Silurum, the word Isca being evidently derived from the neighbouring waters of the Usk, which almost surrounds the town in its entrance. "Usk," again, is only a corruption of the word "Ysg," the British term for water. It was also called Isca Legionis Augustæ—the Usk or watering-town of the (2nd) Augustan Legion ; and this name has been handed 'down under the British appellation of Caer (or Castrum) Leon. Enough is known of the state of society under the occupation of Britain by the Roman forces, to satisfy us that Caerleon, the seat of their government, must have been far before the rest of the country in art and civilization, and this character clung to it in subsequent times ; so that, after the conquerors had been recalled and taken their departure, it became the seat of an archbishopric under the venerable Dubritius (about the 5th or 6th century), who established there a college, very celebrated in its day as possessing upwards of two hundred philosophers.

But after that Caerleon appears to have pretty well died out of the world, scarcely being mentioned in any subsequent history, although it was attracting attention as an antiquarian storehouse as early as the 16th century, when old Camden wrote about its wonderful Roman monuments and altars. The place must then have been a perfect charnel-house of antiquities, of which a very remarkable collection has been recently made, even after 300 years of vandalism and pillage, it having been a common resort for builders and contractors as a convenient and ready-made quarry ; and I dare say, if the truth were known, there is scarce a house in Caerleon the stones of which are not marked with the chisels of the Roman masons.

During my first visit there I remember stopping at a heap of bricks



which had been flung out from a cart, and in less than a minute extracting one with the old legend of the 2nd Augustan Legion stamped upon it. But Caerleon has now fallen into good antiquarian hands, and a museum has been built for the preservation of all remains found in the neighbourhood, carefully watched over by a zealous archæologist, who I verily believe, if required, could furnish us with a complete army-list of the 2nd Legion.

The original fortress was, like most other Roman encampments, a square with rounded angles; but, with the exception of a ridge betokening the line of foundation, nothing is now to be seen of it; and the most interesting relics have been found in the surrounding neighbourhood amongst the sites of the baths and villas of the officers living a little way out of town. In a field between the fortress and the river Usk is the amphitheatre, grass-grown and deserted, where once upon a time the youth and beauty of Isca Silurum hastened to witness the barbaric sports of the gladiators—or, perhaps, those still more cruel ones where man was pitted against wild beast; and in corroboration of this it may be mentioned that a field adjoining is still called “The Bear’s Field,” and was probably the place where the animals were kept, so as to be in readiness for the sports. The amphitheatre is called, very absurdly, Arthur’s Round Table, as whatever may be the claims of King Arthur to reality, it is very certain that this work, like that at Dorchester, is Roman and not British.

Next to coins, the remains most frequent in the museum are inscribed stones, the Romans (at least, the Romans in Britain) having apparently an ambition to be handed down to posterity on other grounds besides sepulchral. Sometimes it was a sort of congratulatory inscription, either to themselves or to their friends, or from a notion that the party referred to had done the correct thing in spending his money properly—as, for instance (fig. 1), acquainting us with the fact that “Titus Flavius Postumus Varus, a most illustrious man, has restored the Temple of Diana.”

The next engraving shows us how “Cornelius Castus and Julius Belisimnus erected this monument to Fortune, or (Bonus Eventus) Happy Event,” probably, as Mr. King suggests, on the occasion of coming into some property. It seems likely that the figures, which by this time are rather indistinct, are intended to represent the happy recipients.

As regarding sepulchral inscriptions, which are very plentiful, they are in general not unlike our own, save in difference of language and type. They have, however, this advantage—that instead of an inscription which is often fulsome and untrue, the Romans contented themselves with the simple name and fact, as in fig. 3, which says: “Julius Valens, a veteran of the 2nd Augustan Legion, lived 100 years.”



It must not be thought that an inability to sculpture was the cause of this apparent paucity of design, as witness the stone in fig. 4, which Mr. Lee (the learned author of "*Isca Silurum*") believes to be the head of Medusa.

Ceramic art is well represented, though it must be confessed that to the uninitiated the figures are somewhat in the gingerbread and gilt school of the present day.

Whether the Samian ware was imported, as Mr. Roach Smith thinks, or whether it was made in England, it is obvious, from the number of fragments found at Caerleon and other Roman cities, that it formed an important item in domestic expenditure. But whatever we may think of the designs executed on the vases, no doubt can be entertained as to the grace of some articles, such as the amphora in fig. 6.

Glass objects, of various colours, are not uncommon; and at Wroxeter we read of a bottle of eye-wash having been found in the ruins. This last, however, has been improved upon at Caerleon, a scent-bottle having been picked up which emitted a distinct and not unpleasant aromatic odour, which appears so to cling to the glass that in very hot weather it is even now faintly perceptible. But when we come to matters of ornament, we find ourselves plunged into difficulties with the Roman ladies, who, I dare say, were as fastidious and difficult to please as their nineteenth-century successors; although the choice of the former was limited, owing to the paucity of material—bone (ivory), bronze, silver, and lead being those most commonly in use. Gold is comparatively rare. Fig. 7, a bone pin, capped with a thin plate of gold.

The designs for the brooches, however, are beautiful; and the fashion of the present day has not disdained to make an extensive use of them (fig. 8). But we must not linger too long in the museum, as I wish to say a few words respecting the Roman villa, the foundations of which were most systematically exposed during some alterations made by the proprietor of the land through which the line of the city walls ran, and proved, when opened to the fullest extent, to embrace an area of 200 feet square, and to contain a variety of rooms, floored with concrete, and baths, one of which was furnished with a leaden pipe, and was heated, as usual with Roman baths,\* by a hypocaust. Interesting as these remains were, they were not of so complete a character, as regards the baths, as those at Caerwent, some 12 miles distant, which exhibited most perfectly the frigidarium, or cooling-house, with the piscina, or cold-water tank, the apodyterium, or dressing-room, the tepidarium, the calidarium, or heated-room, with a calida piscina, or hot-water tank, and the sudatorium, with which I think we are pretty well acquainted in our Turkish baths. Although Caerwent is too far off to be visited at

\* See *Once a Week*, vol. xii., pp. 514-518.

the same time as Caerleon, there is a model of these famous baths in the museum at the latter place, which cannot fail to interest the curious in such subjects.

There is another antiquarian object in Caerleon, which, although tolerably certain not to be Roman, is yet difficult to be classed as to what it is, or when built. This is the "Castle Mound," a very conspicuous object in the village, which, though now only about 50 feet high, is fabled to have once been so lofty as to have overtopped the neighbouring hills. It is very probable that it was surmounted by a tower, and that it was to this that Giraldus alludes as "gigantic." What may have been the date, and who might have been the builder of the castle that it is presumed once covered the mound, history does not tell. . . .

G. PHILLIPS BEVAN.

[1866, *Part II.*, pp. 42, 43.]

A tessellated pavement has recently been discovered in the churchyard of this town; and it has been excavated and removed into the museum of local antiquities, at the expense of the Caerleon Antiquarian Society. This pavement is of considerable interest in several points of view. It was intended to represent a rectangular maze, or labyrinth, such as we have a very fine example of in a pavement discovered at Salzburg, published in colours by the late Professor Joseph Arneth in his "*Archaeologische Analecten*," taf. v. The Caerleon mosaic is so similar, that it is obvious the two were copied from a common design, one of the very many which guided the workers of these elegant and durable floorings. That of Salzburg is, however, very superior in every respect. While the humbler specimen at Caerleon is confined to the labyrinth pattern, surrounded by a border of foliage springing from two vases, the German example is of elaborate and elegant designs, subservient to a pictorial representation of the Cretan labyrinth and the adventure of Theseus to destroy the Minotaur. In the centre Theseus is about to give the fatal blow to the monster, who has fallen upon his knee, and whom he holds by one of his horns. On one of the sides, the hero and Ariadne stand joining hands over an altar. Another picture shows them embarking; and, in a fourth, Ariadne sits alone in a disconsolate posture: the fifth is wanting; this probably showed Theseus guided in the labyrinth by the thread supplied by Ariadne. Vases with water-flowers, or with foliage, are not uncommon in these pavements; an example occurs in that of Carisbrooke, in the Isle of Wight. Mr. Way, in a private letter, referring to the Caerleon mosaic, observes that it indicates how the rectangular turf-mazes came into Britain, which he had always fancied must have come from Italy. . . .

C. ROACH SMITH.

## ST. BRIAVEL'S.

[1831, *Part I.*, pp. 503, 504.]

For the sake of preservation, I send you the following memoranda of some unknown topographical antiquities. I owe the communication to an observant and ingenious gentleman, engaged in the Ordnance survey.

Near the farm called Maget (between Chepstow and St. Briavel's), is a camp in Caswell Wood, not far from St. Briavel's. On the new road from the ferry at Tintern, there is a line of entrenchment from the camp along the top of the cliff towards Chepstow, opposite to the Devil's Pulpit (a noted prospect stand for views over the Piercefield and Tintern part of the Wye), which is within the entrenchment. It can be traced nearly to a tumulus, between Mr. Trotter's and Captain Gordon's (on Tiddenham Chase). The tumulus is on the west side of the road. I doubt whether the Castle of St. Briavel's may not be in connection with this line.

At Stow Green is a small camp, called Castle Orchard, not far from St. Briavel's; and coins (presumed Roman) have been found.

I am now unable to accomplish long walks, or I would have investigated these spots; but I think that the whole eastern bank of the Wye was from Symonds Yat, in English Bicknor, to Portskewit, in or near the New Passage, most strongly fortified by Ostorius; for these discoveries complete the line, viz. 1. Symonds Yat (a camp); 2. Bary Hill by Coleford, in connection with Staunton, where is a Roman road, and probably Blestium, because in Blateslan hundred, then St. Briavel's and Tiddenham Chase, as above.

The same gentleman also informed me that traces of a Roman tessellated pavement and other remains had been discovered at Whitchurch, a village between Ross and Monmouth; and not far from Ganerew and the Little Doward, where is a British local fortress, converted by Geoffrey of Monmouth into a palace of Vortigern.

T. D. FOSBROKE.

## Norfolk.

## CAISTER, NEAR YARMOUTH.

[1837, *Part II.*, pp. 518-521.]

Some labourers working in a field, a few hundred yards to the north-west of Caister Church, by the side of the Norwich Road, discovered a wall built of Roman brick or tiles, and having previously found many skeletons in the course of their labours, they supposed that this was a vault or bricked grave; upon hearing this report, I went over and set two men to work to clear out the place, that we might see what it contained, and take the dimensions. Nothing



could be discovered in throwing out the earth except mingled bones of animals, particularly the ox and pig, with numerous oyster-shells, stones, and fragments of Roman pottery. When all the loose earth was cleared away, we came down to the natural clay of which the subsoil consisted, and found that we had a bricked pit of the following dimensions :—

Length at bottom, 11 feet. Breadth, 7 feet.

Do. at top 12 feet. Do. 8 feet.

Thus it will appear that each wall had been built with a regular outward inclination of 6 inches from top to bottom. Their height appeared to be 3 feet 9 inches ; probably, allowing for destruction, it had been at least 4 feet.

The masonry was very rude, and there was no appearance of covering above, nor could we discover any traces of a paved bottom, there being nothing but the natural clay in which the whole was imbedded, forming the floor of this oblong pit. The bricks of which the walls were constructed were of the following figure and dimensions :—

Thickness, about 1 inch turned up with a lip or edge, upon two of the sides, of 1 inch deep, making the apparent thickness of the brick at the outer edge 2 inches ; these turned-up edges constituted the face of the wall, so that there were from 22 to 24 courses of bricks in each wall. The two ends of the bricks were left plain without a lip or turned-up edge. The length of each brick was 14 inches, the breadth 12 inches. The dimensions, however, of the bricks were very uncertain, especially in breadth, which depended upon the degree of accuracy with which the workmen had turned up the edge.

It will be understood that a course of bricks being laid end to end, with the turned-up edges outward, and the breadth of one brick constituting the thickness of the wall, there would be a hollow trough the whole length of the wall of about 1 inch in depth ; into this they poured their liquid mortar, and then laid another course of bricks ; so that while the extension of the walls presented a face of brick only, the centre of each wall consisted of alternate layers of brick and mortar, each an inch in thickness, the layers of mortar being concealed from the eye externally by the turned-up edge of the bricks. I could not succeed in getting a whole brick, but I got such large portions as clearly indicated their dimensions, and I was unwilling to set the example of pulling down, as there were a sufficient number of country people willing to follow such a precedent ; and I was not sorry to have the whole buried again safely to be examined at any future time.

The clay pit by which these remains were found, has only very recently been opened, the whole field having till within a few months been completely level. In working the clay, the men discovered many skeletons, some perfect, some not, some lying buried in one

direction, some in another. The depth of the soil above the clay varies from 2 to 4 feet, and most of the skeletons lie about 2 feet beneath the surface, none of them being sunk into the clay, while the top of the walls of our brick pit did not rise to the surface by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 feet: supposing the walls to have originally risen to the present surface, their height, measured on the inclined plane, would have been about 6 or 7 feet, and it is very easy to suppose that the bricks which were laid in the light broken soil might have been removed by the ploughshare or other means, while those which were embedded in the more solid clay remained undisturbed.

Some few coins of the time of Constantine were discovered in throwing out the soil, but these are constantly found in this and the adjoining fields upon the surface of the ploughed land.

The following are the inscriptions upon some of the coins which I procured:—

Licinius jun. nob. c.—Reverse, *Virtus exercitus*.

Constantinus jun. n.—Reverse, . . . . *exercitus*, with an altar, *votis xx*.

Constantinus Aug.—*Gloria exercitus*, two soldiers, with each a spear and bow, subscribed P. J. C.

Imp. Carausius P. T. Aug.—*Provida U. C.* figure of Plenty S. P. C.

Mr. Woodward tells me that another is Tetricus; and a thick coin much like an old penny is a Marcus Aurelius Commodus Antoninus. Reverse, *Fortuna*.

Imp. Diocletianus Aug. A female figure apparently, with a shield in one hand and a spear in the other.

The workmen describe the whole superficial soil to have abounded in fragments of broken pottery such as those which I picked up on the spot, which are evidently fragments of Roman urns.

The skeletons, I should conceive, must have been deposited in this spot long since the period of its occupation by the Romans, as the bones so near the surface would scarcely have endured half the time in so perfect a condition; they must also, I imagine, have been deposited there since the filling up of the brick pit, because I myself discovered one skeleton entire in letting down a portion of earth which stood perpendicularly over the edge of the pit after we had cleared it out, and another skull was taken out from the earth just above another part of the brickwork.

No urns were found entire except one small lachrymatory, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 inches in height, perfectly plain, consisting of black earth; the fragments were all too small to give much idea of the entire vessel, consisting only of necks, pieces of rims, and bottoms. Some of the bones which were taken out of the earth in the brick pit were apparently beginning to exhibit the hardness of incipient fossilization, as was also a piece of wood which I took out of another part of the soil.



No further remains have been discovered ; and the place is now so far levelled as to be left to the operations of the plough, unless we should succeed in any further investigations, and be encouraged to examine the ground more extensively.

I saw in the Museum at Mayence a brick of precisely the same description : vastly superior, however, in texture and workmanship to those found at Caister, and much larger : the edges were more sharply turned ; and, if I forget not, it had the maker's name or mark upon it, with a circle of grooved lines ; while those at Caister were very roughly turned at the edge ; and if any mark was impressed, it was in so rough and irregular a manner that I doubted whether it had been made accidentally or intentionally.

I had observed, also, that in several bricks the lip appeared broken off at each end for about an inch, as if to receive a corresponding projection in a neighbour brick, and thus form the joint ; but I could discover no protection in any of them, nor any use made of this notch in the brick. I observed, however, in the specimen at Mayence, that these notches were clearly made by the mould in which the brick was originally framed, and no doubt with some reference to the forming of the joints in the masonry of any building which should be built with due care and accuracy. I saw at Treves fragments of Wedgewood-like and almost glazed vessels of close-grained red earth, precisely similar to some of the fragments which I collected at Caister.

In speculating upon the purpose for which this might have been constructed, it does not appear that it ever was intended to be covered. As a receptacle for urns or bodies of the dead, it would require some roof of brick, stone, or timber. For sustaining either of the former, the outward inclination of the walls would be entirely unsuitable, and their slight construction would be no better fitted for the purpose. It would no doubt have been extremely easy to cover it with timber and with earth ; but in that case some remains of the woodwork would probably have been found, and I could not discover the slightest appearance of anything of the kind on that particular spot. And here again it appears to me that the slightness of the walls is a great objection, for a chamber of the dimensions of 11 feet by 7, if constructed for any sacred purpose, would have been considered worthy of more substantial and probably enduring walls than these.

It appears to me that this pit at Caister must have been constructed for some domestic purposes—as a rustic bath, though extremely ill suited for that purpose on a gently rising ground with no water very near : or as a tanner's pit, or for any purpose for which a pit of such dimensions might have been made, to serve in an encampment where rustic contrivances must supply the place of the more refined accommodations to which the luxurious Roman had become accustomed—the rude pit, for instance, which has been described,



instead of the marble-sided bath ; a bleak encampment on a point of land between the German Ocean on the one side, and an æstuary on the other, in exchange for the sunny slopes and fervid baths of Treves or Aix. Mr. Woodward suggests that the building was intended for a corn store ; but I scarcely incline to this supposition, as an underground vault, though very well for concealment in cases of necessity, would by no means be a corn-store in a well-defended Roman encampment.

It was in truth so rude a building, that my own idea is that its use was one of so ordinary and common-place a nature as scarcely to be worth much speculation ; that it was Roman, beyond doubt, is, I conceive, the only point of interest.

After writing the foregoing particulars, I received information that some brickmakers turning over the soil to uncover the brick earth in a field about a quarter of a mile to the eastward of that in which we found the bricked pit had discovered two urns filled with fragments of bone. I directly made inquiry, and find the report to be most provokingly true, inasmuch as the urns are destroyed and their contents reburied in the soil. I obtained fragments of one sufficient to complete the orifice of the urn, with the exception of a piece less than an inch in length, from which fragments it appears that the mouth was not round but oval : whether intentionally made so, or accidentally distorted in the drying, I cannot say.

The loss of the urns is, however, of less importance, as there does not appear to have been any peculiar difference between them and others which I have seen. The account which I collected from the workmen is, that each urn was covered with a tile, and that they were completely filled with fragments of bone. In one, the fragments were very minute, and I collected a few of them ; in the other, the figure of bones, they said, was more distinguishable. I saw the precise spot from which one urn was taken, about 3 feet beneath the surface : the situation of the other was rather remarkable, being sunk much lower into the brick earth itself, 6 or 7 feet beneath the surface ; and the brickmaker was at a loss to conceive how the people who buried it had got so deep, for it appeared as though a hole of about 2 feet diameter had been sunk, at the bottom of which the urn had been deposited, having been bedded in a mass of wood ashes, or, as he said, cinder dust, completely filling the bottom of the hole. The shape of this urn, he said, was precisely like a stone bottle containing three or four pints cut off below the neck, making an aperture large enough to admit the hand. The urns were distant from each other about 20 feet as nearly as I could understand their description.

I was particular in my inquiries as to the tile with which these urns were said to be covered, as I remembered that the celebrated Dr. Brown, of Norwich, in his "*Hydriotaphia*," says, " Among these urns we could obtain no good account of their coverings ; only one seemed

arched over with some kind of brickwork. Of those found at Buxton some were covered with flints, some in other parts with tiles, those at Yarmouth Caster were closed with Roman brick." I could not find the piece of tile or brick with which these urns were covered, but I imagine it was Roman brick, though the workmen called it tile. Dr. Brown also observes, "The most frequent discovery" of urns "is made at the two Casters by Norwich and Yarmouth, at Burgh Castle," 5 miles from Yarmouth, "and at Brancaster."

This brickground has been worked for many years, but I never remember hearing of any urns discovered there before. About 16 years ago some Roman urns were discovered in another part of the parish in a south-west direction from the bricked pit, and bordering upon the marshes, which probably were at that time an æstuary, furnishing access for the Roman fleets to Garianonum and Venta. In sinking a well beside the Yarmouth Road, at the depth of 20 feet below the present surface of the marsh, a piece of plank was discovered, which appeared to be a plank of a ship; and the common rumour amongst the more inquisitive of the working people is, that anchors have been found in the marshes at different times, indicating that ships rode at anchor where now solid land is found. [See Note 18.]

T. CLOWES.

### Northamptonshire.

[1757, *pp.* 19-21.]

As many things of great antiquity have been lately discovered in making the turnpike roads in this county, it will, we presume, be an agreeable entertainment to the curious if a still more particular account be given of them than that which we venture to relate upon credible testimony.

The ancient custom of burning human bodies after their decease, before Christianity was planted in this island, is visible to the eye of every traveller, on each side of the turnpike road betwixt the north end of Higham Ferrers and the windmill, where the earth appears to have been dug in several places for the reception of the ashes of human bodies which had been burned there, wherein bits of coals are yet to be seen, mixed with ashes and common mould, which, by length of time, differ very little in colour from the natural ground. On the west side of the said road there is only one of these places of interment at present discernible, wherein some stones at the depth of about 1 foot appear discoloured by fire; it was from this place we took a small fragment of a Roman urn wherein the heathens commonly put the relics of the deceased after they had been consumed by fire.

We can hardly suppose that the persons whose ashes have been interred in any of these receptacles were persons of any great note or distinction, because it does not yet appear that the bodies of any brute



creatures had been burned with them ; for had they been persons of distinguished fortune or fame, such company would not have been wanting here, any more than in other places of the like kind, as particularly in that very remarkable burying-place of the ancient Romans lately discovered in digging for gravel on the west side of the lordship of Tichmarsh, at a small distance from the river Nine, where the surface of a large tract of ground appeared much discoloured by the great number of funeral piles which have been lighted there ; here we found the bones of various cattle, as oxen, goats, swine, etc., which had been burned with human bodies, agreeable to the account Virgil has left us of the manner of burning the bodies of the deceased in the Trojan army.

In the aforesaid place have been discovered several pieces of Roman coin which bear the image of different emperors, one whole urn containing a few small bones and ashes and the fragments of urns without number, several of which were made of a red earth resembling coral, with inscriptions and hieroglyphics upon them.

But leaving these extraordinary relics for the farther remarks of curious beholders, we will proceed to our observations made in and near the turnpike road leading from Thrapston to Market Harborough.

At the opening of a gravel pit on the south side of the said road, in Islip Field, was discovered three or four collections of human bones, thrown into heaps without any order ; amongst some of them were found some small bits of Roman urns.

Betwixt a place called Peter's Cabin and Twywell Field was found, on the north side of the said road, an entire human skeleton, with an iron helmet and spear.

In digging materials in a scaly ground the upper end of Twywell Field, near a footway leading to Cranford, were discovered several round holes in the shape of a cone, which were partly filled up with the same kind of rubbish which had been taken out of them. Most of them were about 3 or 4 yards diameter near the surface, and near 2 deep. At the depth of about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the surface of each appeared a dark mould impregnated with small bits of coals and some bones of hogs and other beasts. From one of these receptacles (even yet to be seen on the edge of a stone pit in the place above-mentioned) we took a small piece of stag's horn, with a fragment of an heathen urn, which plainly show that these receptacles, like those near Higham Ferrers, were the burying-places of the ancient heathens.

In forming the said road on the east side of the parish of Cranford St. John, at the distance of about 1 furlong, in a scaly ground, we discovered some ashes and bones of a beast, consumed, it is supposed, with some human body. Near this place also was found a piece of coin, bearing the image of Constantine.

A few years ago, in digging some rubbish from the floor of a great



and ancient dwelling-house in the county of Bedford, the workmen discovered a large heathen urn with bones and ashes, which they put into the hands of the rector of the place.

As to the pieces of money we find scattered among the ashes of the dead, we are much inclined to believe that they were the halfpennies called *Naulum Caronis*, which the Romans superstitiously put into the mouths of the deceased for the payment of Charon, the supposed ferryman of hell, who was to carry men's souls in his boat over the Stygian Lake after their decease.

But leaving these things for a while, we will proceed to some other kind of remarks we made in a large gravel pit lately opened on the south side of Kettering Field, where we discovered things of much greater antiquity and more worthy the notice of all men than anything relating to the Romans, who were the invaders of our properties and the cut-throats of mankind ; for here we discovered a tooth, vertebra, and jawbone of some animal of an enormous size, and of a species different from any creature that is now bred and supported in our climate ; these, with the thigh-bone of a beast of a more moderate size, were found in the aforesaid gravel-pit, at the depth of about 7 feet, in places which never before had been opened, the strata lying in their natural order ; from whence we infer that the animals to which these relics did belong were living before the fountains of the great deep were broken up, when the whole earth and its inhabitants perished by water.

We find nothing remarkable in our progress from this place till we come to a gravel-pit, opened for the benefit of the turnpike, on the north side of the parish of Desborough, where, at the depth of about 2 feet, were discovered several entire human skeletons, with several amber and glass beads lying near the breast-bones of one of them ; as likewise one iron ring, with several brass clasps, which, we suppose, connected the garments in which the deceased had been buried. In the same pit were found two urns, with bones and ashes in them.

In a gravel-pit lately opened near a place called the Hermitage, at the depth of about 14 feet we found a piece of petrified wood resembling oak, about 10 inches long and 6 wide, the strata also lying in their natural order.

In the gravel-pit on the north-east side of Little Bowden Field, near the river Welland, we found several fragments of urns, with four or five pieces of copper coin not legible ; as also some little bits of brass of an uncommon form, used, we suppose, about the garments of the deceased.

Many of the aforementioned antiquities are now in the hands of Mr. M. Day, late surveyor of the aforesaid turnpike road.

We have been the more inclined to give this short account of the aforementioned antiquities, discovered in or near the turnpike road leading from Thrapston to Market Harborough, because we imagine

the like occasion will not again be given for such discoveries in that part of our kingdom.

Yours, etc. A. B.

BRIXWORTH.

[1841, *Part I.*, pp. 305, 306.]

The admirers of ecclesiastical architecture are generally aware that the church of Brixworth exhibits the finest specimen of Roman or Anglo-Roman building in the whole kingdom. Its antiquity was first suspected by Mr. Baker, the historian of Northamptonshire, and was subsequently ascertained, and carried higher in the scale of centuries, by the decision of his friends Rickman and Britton, the latter of whom has represented its most remarkable features in the fifth volume of his "Architectural Antiquities." Nearly all the nave and square tower still subsist in their original state, displaying a massive masonry of unhewn stones, cemented with a mortar harder than themselves, and containing the characteristic deep brick or tiled arches for the doorways, windows, and entrances to the aisles. The original aisles have long been removed, but their ancient foundations have been discovered, at least on the north side of the church, though not yet followed out to any extent. The existing chancel being of a later date than the nave and tower, it was still uncertain whether there had ever existed in its place the semicircular structure of the Roman basilica; but this is now no longer a matter of doubt, for the Rev. C. F. Watkins, the vicar, having gone into the chancel to inspect the making of a new grave, perceived a portion of ancient masonry, and having pursued the investigation, had the satisfaction of laying open the whole circuit of the original wall, which descends from the floor of the present chancel to a depth of about 4 feet, where it encloses an ancient floor of hardened cement, the surface of which has somewhat the appearance of stalagmite, probably occasioned by a slight deposit of calcareous matter, carried down through the superincumbent rubbish of lime and earth. This newly discovered wall is of the same thickness, composition, and age as the nave and the square tower, which leaves the antiquity of the whole without doubt.

CASTOR, NEAR PETERBOROUGH.

[1821, *Part I.*, p. 460.]

A beautiful and perfect Roman pavement has been discovered by Mr. Artis, house-steward to Earl Fitzwilliam, situated in front of the manor-house at Castor, near Peterborough: it has since been removed.

[1822, *Part I.*, pp. 483-485.]

My curiosity having been strongly excited by the Roman discoveries recently made at Castor, near Peterborough, by Mr. Artis,

of Milton, I visited that place a few weeks since, and cannot resist introducing to the antiquarian world, through the medium of your valuable magazine, a brief sketch of the nature and extent of his investigations.

It is now, I believe, more than two years since he commenced his operations, which have been continued during the last year with only a fortnight's intermission, sometimes with the assistance of nine men, and never with less than two or three. His researches, however, though enthusiastic, are judiciously and systematically conducted. On the appearance of foundations or hypocausts, he carefully follows them to their boundaries, and having cleared them out, takes an accurate ground-plan; and as he meets with tessellated pavements, makes drawings of those which cannot be safely removed. The scene of his labours is an isosceles triangle, two sides being about 2 miles long, the third about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and the churchyard of Castor the vertex. At a short distance south of the base, Northamptonshire is divided from Huntingdonshire by the River Nen, and Camden conjectures that the Roman city of Durobrivæ, called by the Saxons Dormancester, occupied both sides of the river. He says, "The little village of Castor, a mile distant from the river" (which he erroneously calls Avon), "seems to have been part of it, by the tessellated pavements found there." . . . "In the neighbouring fields, called Normanton for Dormanton fields, are found such quantities of Roman coins that one would think they had been sown there."\* The speculations of later antiquaries on the locality of this station, and details of the Roman remains found at Castor prior to the disclosures effected by the exertions of Mr. Artis, may be seen in Mr. Gibson's "Comment on Part of the Fifth Journey of Antoninus," or "History of Castor," of which a second edition has been recently edited by the indefatigable historian of Leicestershire.

Mr. Artis has made successful excavations in almost every direction, but the most extensive and curious discovery perhaps is in the churchyard and adjoining hill, where he has already satisfactorily traced fifty-six rooms in a villa, which appears to have covered between 500 and 600 feet square. In Mill field, at the south-east angle of the triangle, is another villa, about 300 feet long by 230 feet wide, containing twenty-two rooms; and at the south-east angle is a third villa, about 300 feet square, with thirty-seven rooms. In the portions of the intermediate space which have been explored, tessellated pavements, foundations of small houses, and a variety of miscellaneous curiosities have been brought to light. Between the base of the line and the river, probably the suburbs of the city, several skeletons have been dug up. Any further observations on my part are superseded by the following communication from Mr. A. soon after my

\* Gough's "Camden," vol. ii., p. 269.



return home, which not only describes his subsequent progress, but gives an interesting view of the general result of his researches :

“DEAR SIR,

“The day you left Milton was a day of great and interesting discovery with me. You will recollect the excavations on the east side of the church of Castor, by the haystack, in which there appeared a piece of very good plain pavement. I went there on the morning you left Peterborough, and found it half filled with earth that had fallen from the wall which had surrounded the room, in length 4 feet, height 3 feet, beautifully painted in colours of great variety, but as to what it had represented it would be difficult to say. I continued the excavation so as to accomplish the plan of that part of the buildings ; nothing further of importance occurred, excepting that by excavating the ground and completing the corner of the building, it appears more than probable that there was a public entrance at the four lane ends east of the church. After I had made a sketch of the painting, I rode over the Mill field and the site of the old city in my way to Water Newton to visit my favourite excavation in the fossil department. Finding the men very near the alluvial vein, in which I had met with fossil bones, I waited the result of a discovery that adds to my collection the bones of several extinct animals—viz., the blade bone and a short one which connects the sternum of that ill-proportioned animal the megatherium, a tooth of the mammoth, tibia, vertebræ, ribs, and other fragments. I have also a tooth of the mastodon, three of the Asiatic and two of the African elephant, and the head and horns of two oxen, one of them unknown. The same day I discovered a cloaca in the villa opposite Water Newton Bridge, in which we found a coin of Alexander, middle brass, fragments of nine different urns, and an iron instrument. Since you were at Milton I have opened another hypocaust on Mill Hill, very singular in its construction, from 30 to 35 feet square, flues 16 inches deep, 14 inches wide ; in the centre is a square of 4 feet, in which are placed two of the long brick pillars for supporting the floor. The extent of the buildings apparently connected with this hypocaust is nearly equal to what are known of at Castor.

“We are still tracing foundations, and daily discover sufficient to encourage a further investigation. The principal buildings are the three which I described to you ; and the lesser detached ones, forming the part of the city opposite Foar Green, appear to have been indiscriminately placed, but as we leave that part in a line for Castor they appear to have formed streets. Camden\* describes a way to Castor which he says goes by the name of Lady Coneyburrow's Way, and ‘which seems to have begun about Water Newton on the other side of the river, and to have been paved with a sort of cubical

\* Gough's “Additions to Camden.”

bricks.' It is now called Lady Kettleburrow's Road, and in places is not more than 4 inches beneath the surface, very compact, and from 20 to 25 feet wide. The part that I examined is in Normanton field. I staked out a direct line of 300 yards, and left my men to examine it. On my return they had discovered a very good tessellated pavement, 48 feet long, but they could not trace the road more than 100 yards. Camden (Gough) supposes this road to have been paved with cubical bricks, but in *that* he was most certainly mistaken; however, I think it very probable that the pavement in the room before mentioned was discovered at the time he made his observation, and that he took it to be a continuation of Lady Kettleburrow's Road, the pavement in the room being of the kind that he supposes the road to have been set with. In this part of the city the walls rarely exceed 2 feet in thickness, some of them have been richly painted, but the pavements very inferior to those of Castor.

"Under that part of the old Roman road leading from Sutton Cross to Foar Green (which in fact does not appear after excavation to be anything more than earth collected by the turn of the plough) are the remains of from fifteen to twenty detached buildings, which I should judge had been occupied many years, the flues being actually worn out.

"Every subsequent writer on the topography of this place has noticed the old Roman road as running from Sutton Cross to Foar Green, but in the present state of my researches it would be very difficult to say in what part the road in question had entered the city. I should wish to set aside all doubt as to the probable existence of a *bridge*, which can only be accomplished by excavating on both sides of the river. I could erect one by conjecture this moment, and say more on other subjects connected with this place, but this I leave to my friends, who are more active in theory than practice, being myself an enemy to that system. I believe I have not told you that in every building of any extent I have found hypocausts, and in some three or four, as at Castor, and no two constructed on the same plan. The bottle which I mentioned having discovered in a Roman building that appeared to have undergone considerable repair has not yet been examined—in fact, the decomposing state of the glass rendered it necessary to take some precaution in preserving it, and accordingly I buried it again immediately. It was nearly full of liquor, and was found with the mouth or neck downwards; the cork, if it is a cork, had been covered with cement. The coins discovered in and about this place are from Claudius to Honorius. I have by me from two to three hundred, and I believe but few of the intervening emperors wanting. The pottery, made from clay, which I hope to identify, are very interesting, and I believe I have articles of almost every description that the ravaging hand of time has not destroyed. The walls on the east side of the church at Castor are from 10 to 11 feet high,

probably the most perfect building yet discovered. I have not yet been able to finish the drawings, but my opinion is the same as to publishing them.

"I am, dear Sir, yours truly and obliged,  
"E. T. ARTIS."

Yours, etc. GEO. BAKER.

CHESTERTON, NEAR PETERBOROUGH.

[1786, *Part II.*, p. 1034.]

I wish to take the sense of your antiquarian correspondents on an inscription said to have been dug up at Chesterton, near Peterborough, where are traces of a Roman camp, and many Roman remains have certainly been found.

The stone is said to be cylindrical, about 3 feet 4 inches long, by 10 inches broad, and about 3 feet 2 inches in circumference. Its form seems to imply that it was a frustum of a milliary; but, being found in the highest corner of the vallum, lying along with a skeleton eastward of it, in the same line with it, and some coins, it has been imagined sepulchral.

The inscription is said to run thus: [Huebner, p. 209]

IMP. CAES.  
M. ANNIO  
FLORIANO  
P. F. INVICTO  
AVG.  
M P L

It is the only one in which the name of Florianus is mentioned. His reign was so short, being only two months, and ending with his assassination, A.D. 276, that not a single inscription is recorded of him in Gruter's great collection. D. H.

[1788, *Part I.*, p. 36.]

Having been lately at Peterborough, a natural fondness for antiquity led me to inquire if the stone with an inscription in memory of Florianus was still in that neighbourhood. I was lucky enough to view it, but was extremely mortified at seeing the little attention paid to so rare and valuable a relic.

The possessor of this monument has placed it against the house, in an obscure corner of a small back yard, where the dropping of the rain, with the natural dampness of the yard, will, I apprehend, in a short time obliterate the inscription. It was so covered and incrustated with dirt and filth, that I was obliged to employ a servant in cleaning it before I could discover the inscription. The yard had been newly gravelled, and the INVICTO AVGVSTO M. P. L. was absolutely buried in the soil. I must confess I wish to rescue this remnant of antiquity from the hands of its present possessor (to whom it can be of no



moment), and to place it under the care of a person of more refinement. If this hint should be the means of saving so valuable a relic from decay, which serves to elucidate a dark period in history, I shall feel myself highly fortunate ; for never let it be said that in Britain, where the study of antiquity is carried to as great perfection as in any part of Europe, and where relics are preserved with the greatest avidity, that the only inscription this island affords, and the second yet discovered, to the memory of Florianus, should moulder and perish in obscurity.

MILES.

#### HUNSBOROUGH CAMP.

[1798, *Part II.*, pp. 1020, 1021.]

A young friend, whom I occasionally visit at Northampton, invited me some little time ago to walk with him as far as the old camp, called Hunsborough, about a mile from that town. The situation of this camp is upon very high ground ; but the ascent to it is so gradual that there can be no expectation of so extensive a prospect as the area affords. The form of it is still very perfect ; and, though it has been generally attributed to the Danes, and by Camden to a still later original, to the Barons in their wars, I have no doubt but it is Roman. The corners are rounded, but the square appears sufficiently plain to the eye, and so much more in the plan, as to leave little reason to hesitate as to the origin of it. The views and plan (Plate II.), which my companion has taken the pains to draw for you, I am certain will be very acceptable to you, as I do not know any author who has given a good description of it. Camden says very little about it ; he only calls it Huntshill, and supposes it made in the Barons' wars. Morton attributes it to the Danes. He thinks the form of it shows it not to be Roman. And he is confirmed in this idea from the want of the conveniency of water, which, he says, the Romans were very careful about. But had the Romans no camps upon hills? Surely a great number in our island. And these all must want the convenience of water, except from accidental springs, or wells, by which Hunsborough might be also amply supplied. Bridges gives a very imperfect account of this camp, which is the more extraordinary, as he seems to speak from his own inspection. He describes it as rather circular, and surrounded with a single ditch and double trench ; as containing upwards of an acre of ground ; and as having only one entrance towards the south. Yet, he adds, the passages at present cross it from east to west and from north to south, as if he thought three of them of modern construction. There are certainly four entrances, and, in my opinion, all belonging originally to the work. That on the east is the largest. The south entrance is for the most part hid by the underwood, which covers the hill from the east entrance all round the south side. The ditch is very bold and grand round the whole circumference, but much the most

perfect about the south-west angle. The area measures from north to south 426 feet, and from east to west 432. The whole camp occupies a space of about five acres, as we were informed by a labourer at work upon it. The inner bank of the ditch measures 30 feet; the breadth at the bottom is 8 feet level, and from the bottom to the top of the outer bank is 18 feet. The ditch is surrounded on both banks on the north and western sides with a dead fence, and some part of it is used as garden-ground. The present proprietor, it is reported, intends to sow the whole plot with furze for a fox-cover. The view from this camp is very extensive. Among the objects are a Roman exploratory mount in the parish of Cogenhoe, called Clifford's Hill. A Roman camp at Guilsborough must be within view of it. And, as the country about Daventry forms a part of the scene, the camp on Borough Hill may possibly be distinguishable. The town of Northampton nowhere affords a more pleasing prospect; and, if there was a Roman station where are now the remains of the castle, which is very probable, the two forts could not have had a more convenient communication. Roman coins are said to have been found at or about Northampton. I have not heard of any found in this camp. Yours, etc. T. R.

## MARSTON ST. LAURENCE.

[1843, *Part I.*, p. 338.]

Since the account given in our last number [in report of Society of Antiquaries] several other discoveries have been made at this site. The remains have been preserved by J. M. Severne, Esq., the Rev. C. Blencowe, Miss Jeffs, Sir H. Dryden, Bart., the Rev. E. G. Walford, and Mr. Alfred Beesley: the three last-named gentlemen, on collecting the whole of the remains for examination, agreed in opinion that they were Romano-British (not Anglo-Saxon, as has been suggested by other authority); and the date of the interments seems to have been now cleared up, by the discovery of two coins, one of Carausius, and another apparently of nearly the same antiquity, beneath a skeleton which has been lately disinterred.

## WANSFORD.

[1841, *Part II.*, p. 528.]

A discovery of high interest has been made in St. John's Wood, about three miles north-west of Wansford, on the Northamptonshire property of the Duke of Bedford. Some labourers in digging gravel turned up two stones which are confidently believed to have formed part of the pedestal of a Roman statue of Diana. One stone is carved with a human figure in the act of throwing a spear, and the other has the representation of two running females, having in their hands coupling leashes for hounds. The situation is one in which it is probable three roads formerly united; and the statue therefore might be dedicated to the goddess under her title of Trivia. The



stones are now in the possession of Mr. Wilson, of Wansford. The Rev. Dr. Bonney, of Cliffe, has inspected them, and is of opinion that a temple of Diana existed near the spot where they have been discovered : this is about five miles from the eminent Roman station, Durobrivæ, now Castor, part of the present fine parish church of which place is thought to have been a temple for Pagan worship. Near the spot at which the above reliques were turned up, a Roman pot and some small portions of human bones were also found ; and further search is to be carefully made.

## Northumberland.

### ROMAN ROADS.

[1825, *Part I.*, pp. 39, 40.]

Favourable circumstances have enabled me to trace the line of a Roman road which made a communication between the two branches of Watling Street that pass through Northumberland. It commences at Rochester in Redesdale, the Bremenium of Antoninus ; passes by the Dudlees, Branshaw, and Yardhope, to Holystone, where St. Paulinus, as recorded by the Venerable Bede, converted several thousand Pagans to Christianity, and baptized them on his journey to the "royal residence" of the Saxon monarch, King Edwin, at (Melmin) Millfield, the palace at (ad Gebrin) having gone to decay. At this place St. Paulinus continued for some time converting his subjects, and baptized them in the river Glen. The road then passes the river Coquet, near to the village of Sharperton ; a little to the eastward of which, on an eminence called Chester Hill, is an encampment, nearly square, occupying about two acres, and equi-distant between the two branches. It then passes through the grounds of the villages of Burradon and the Trewitts. When taken up in front of my house, I measured the breadth at 14 feet. After passing through some fields at Lorbottle, it has been carried along the "street-way" in Mr. Clavering's estate of Callaby. Immediately by is a high conical hill, with a triple circular entrenchment : the smallest circle is cut out of the solid rock, to the depth of 8 or 10 feet in some places ; but as it is destitute of water, it can only have been a place of refuge to the inhabitants on any sudden invasion of the enemy. It is, probably, a work of the Britons. The road then passes through a part of Lord Ravensworth's estate to Barton, and it joins the eastern branch of Watling Street before it crosses the river Alne, to the north of which is Crawley Tower, built upon the east angle of a Roman station on an eminence near the road, which I consider to be the "Alauna Amnis" of Richard of Cirencester. There is great probability of the road being continued from Barton, by Alnwick, down to the port of Alnmouth ; as during the period of the Lower Empire great quantities of grain were shipped from Britain to supply the Roman armies and garrisons on the Rhine.



Having an opportunity last year of seeing some improvements at West Glenton in a field called Deer Street, the men were employed in taking up a part of the old road, with about 6 inches of soil upon it, consisting of large flag stones laid horizontally, on the outside 12 feet wide. It appears that a branch had been made from the former road, crossed the Alne west of Whittingham Church, and passed through Deer Street to the Bremish bridges, when it joined the Roman road.

Yours, etc., JOHN SMART.

#### CHESTERS.

[1868, *Part I.*, pp. 84, 85.]

Mr. Clayton is continuing excavations at Chesters, the site of the important Roman station Cilurnum. Dr. Bruce states that a cutting has been made to see in what way the great wall joined the station, the theory being that Cilurnum was one of the fortresses established by Agricola. Mr. Clayton, having found masonry of a somewhat puzzling kind, directed a portion of the rampart of the station on the north to be laid open. A gateway revealed itself. This had, however, been walled up with solid masonry. This gateway is a double one, like that in the east rampart of Amboglanna. The upper guard-chamber is now being excavated. In clearing the earth away, not very far from the surface a slab dedicated to Antoninus Pius was discovered. Mr. Clayton and Dr. Bruce consider that this gateway was blocked up when the great wall, in process of erection, was carried to the north of the station.

#### HEXHAM.

[1841, *Part II.*, p. 302.]

In pulling down two old houses to rebuild them, on the west side of the market place at Hexham, adjoining the choir end of the church, the workmen have laid bare the remains of the east front of the Lady Chapel of the cathedral; the abutments indicated five compartments, which seemed walled up, where windows must have been. It appeared that the mullions and tracery still remained; and on pulling away the walls and plaster, both were found in a tolerable state of preservation.

At the end of the south transept, considerable remains of the Chapter House are at this moment a butcher's slaughter-house. The walls are quadrangular, of about 30 feet dimensions, each side exhibiting a continuance of fine pointed arches. A coin of Antoninus, of third brass, was found in the foundations of the old houses pulled down; and there is an inscribed stone built in the walls of the Chapter House, clearly Roman: it reads— [Huebner, p. 99]

I N S T A N E  
F L. H Y G I N  
L E G. V I. V

JOSEPH FAIRLESS.

## ROCHESTER.

[1851, *Part I.*, p. 2.]

A small votive altar ( $11\frac{3}{4}$  inches high) which was discovered in 1832 in the station of Bremenium at Rochester in Redesdale, and has since remained as an ornament in a garden, has been recently added to the collection of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle. The terms of the dedication are unusual ; and the following copy of the inscription, which is as perfect as when first cut, has been kindly communicated to us by Mr. John Bell of Gateshead : [Huebner, p. 179]

DIS  
MOVNTI  
BVS IVL  
FIRMIN  
VS DEC F.

[1855, *Part II.*, pp. 155, 156.]

The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-on-Tyne, under the auspices of their noble and liberal patron, the Duke of Northumberland, are prosecuting researches at High Rochester, on the site of Bremenium, the northernmost station at the time of the Emperor beyond the great Roman wall. Notices have been given from time to time in this magazine of the discoveries made ; and Dr. Bruce, in the second edition of his "Roman Wall," introduced an additional chapter, which includes an account of the chief matter brought to light up to about two years since. The excavations, which for some time had been suspended, have now been resumed with success. Fresh architectural peculiarities are daily being developed, and every hope is entertained that ere long a complete plan may be made of the internal arrangements of this interesting fortress.

This station has happily been remarkably fertile in inscriptions, several of which are of unusual historical interest. To these have recently been added another, on which a few remarks may be acceptable to the student of Romano-British history. It introduces to us evidence of a proprietor in Britain of whose presence here we had not previously received any information, either from inscriptions found upon British soil, or from any ancient writer. It corrects the reading upon a very mutilated stone found upon the same spot relating to local matters ; and it vindicates the propriety of extending archæological researches beyond the narrow limits of our shores in the connection of a portion of the inscription with information gained from one found in Normandy. The object of my present notes is chiefly to point out these facts, which cannot be made too public, as well for the curious information they convey as to show the usefulness of practical researches such as those in progress at Bremenium. In the third volume of my "Collectanea Antiqua" I introduced a copy and translation of the inscription upon a monument found at Vieux, near Caen. This monument records the erection of a statue

of marble to Semicus Sollemnis, high priest of Mercury, Mars, and Diana, by the corporation of the city of Viducasses, the ruins of which are at Vieux. This inscription recites, among other matters, the honours conferred upon Sollemnis by Claudius Paulinus, imperial legate and proprietor of the province of Lugdumensis. One portion mentions that when Paulinus was with the Sixth Legion, he sent Sollemnis a military salary and other presents. The Sixth Legion, we know, was quartered at Eburacum (York). A second portion gives a copy of a letter which accompanied the presents, and enumerates the things sent, which are particularly interesting as being in part of British manufacture. Here Paulinus is spoken of as imperial legate and proprietor of the province of Britain. The third portion of this inscription is a letter from the successor of Paulinus. It relates still to Sollemnis, and introduces reference to the defeat of an accusation which was attempted to be got up in the general assembly of the Gauls against Paulinus. It is from the name of the writer of this letter we infer that he was in Britain in the time of Caracalla and thereabouts.

In some observations on this valuable monument I wrote, "Of Claudius Paulinus there is no mention in any inscription discovered in this country. There is a fragment found at Housestead, on the Roman wall, of what seems to have been a record of some military transaction, in which the name Paulinus occurs; but it is doubtful if the prænomen be Claudius." In corresponding with Dr. Bruce respecting a slab found at Bremenium, engraved in page 458 of his "Roman Wall," I suggested that the proposed Claudius Apellinius might probably be the Claudius Paulinus of the Vieux inscription.

The inscription as read :

IMPERATORI CAESARI  
 . . . PIO FELICI . . .  
 . . . COHORS I FIDA VARDULORUM  
 . . . BALLIS A SOLO RESTITUIT  
 SUB C. CLAUDIO APELLINIO LEGATO AUGUSTALI  
 INSTANTE AURELIO QUINTO TRIBUNO.

The inscription recently excavated proves that my conjecture was right. By the kindness of Dr. Bruce I am here able to give a copy of it as far as it can be shown without an engraving to represent the ligatured letters. [Huebner, p. 181]

IMP . CAES . M . AVR . . .  
 A . . . . . PIO . F . . . .  
 TRIB POTII . COS . . . .  
 P . P . BALLIST . A . SO . .  
 VARDVL . . . . .  
 TIB . . CL . . . PAVL . . . .  
 PR . PR . FE . . . .  
 P . AEL . . . . .

It will be seen that these two inscriptions are pretty much the



same ; that they record the restoration of some public building by the Varduli, under an imperial legate and proprietor whom the second slab—on which the name, as far as the third word goes, is very legible—enables us to recognise as the Claudius Paulinus of the Vieux stone, with the additional name of Tiberius. The former inscription is in a very fragmentary state, but enough remains of the name to warrant, with the aid of the clearly-cut PAVL, our reading the word PAVLINVS or PAVLINI. This monument, in being attributed to the reign of Elagabalus, is also chronologically confirmatory of the Paulinus and that of Vieux being one and the same person.

The word BALLIS on the slab engraved by Dr. Bruce presented a difficulty. It was suggested that it might possibly be a contraction of *balneis*. But on the newly-found stone another letter helps us toward the word *ballistarium*, an arsenal or storehouse for *ballite* and other military engines. The word does not occur, I believe, in any other known inscription.

ROACH SMITH.

#### HOUSESTEEDS.

[1822, *Part II.*, pp. 545, 546.]

George Gibson, Esq., of Reedsmouth, has lately presented to the Society of Antiquaries of this town a curious and interesting collection of Roman antiquities, found about three months ago upon that gentleman's estate of Housesteeds, on which, as is well known, is the celebrated station supposed to be the ancient Borcovicus, one of the stations *per lineam valli*. As the workmen were searching for stones in a small knoll in the field at the bottom of the hill on which the station stands, and close adjoining to the west side of a round hill called the Chapel Hill, a stone, which partly appeared above the surface, resisting their efforts to raise it, they found it necessary to clear away the soil around it. In doing so, they soon discovered that the stone in question was an altar standing upright ; and being presently induced by other appearances to extend their search, they proceeded with the utmost caution to clear away the ground to a considerable extent, and to some depth. When this was effected, they found that they had opened an area or chamber about 12 feet square, and surrounded by walls about 4 feet high on the inside, but not level with the surface of the ground. The sides faced the four cardinal points of the compass, and towards the northern end of the east side was an opening evidently intended for an entrance. In the western side was a rectangular recess, occupying nearly three-fourths of its length. About two feet in front of this recess, and so placed as to afford a free passage round them, were standing, with their faces to the east, a curiously sculptured stone, and two noble altars in excellent preservation, one on each side of the stone, and resting against it. Each of the altars bore an inscription, "INVICTO MITRÆ

SÆCULARI" [Huebner, p. 125], cut in bold and fine-shaped characters. The upper part of the stone was broken off, but luckily the fragments were lying near it, and these being fitted to their places, the stone has been restored to nearly its original shape, and sufficiently so to ascertain its nature and design. The lower part of the stone presents merely a plain uninscribed tablet, about 20 inches high and 2 feet broad. In the upper part of the stone an opening is cut in the shape of an egg, with the smaller end downwards. This opening is over-arched and nearly encircled by a band about 10 or 12 inches broad. On this band are sculptured, in relief, the several signs of the Zodiac; and it is worthy of remark that the summer signs are much larger than the winter ones. Within this opening there is placed the upper half of a small human figure (no doubt of Mithras), resting with its lower extremity on what appears to be a hemisphere, which lies in the smaller end of the egg with its flat surface upwards. Upon the head of the figure, and supporting, as it were, the centre of the band on which the Zodiac is sculptured, is something which is evidently too large and projecting for a cap, and has the appearance of another hemisphere inverted. The figure has originally had arms, but these are now lost; the hands, however, remain, carved in bold relief, upon the inner edge of the band, one on each side opposite the other, from which it is evident that the arms of the figure have been extended. In the right hand, which is in the sign Gemini, is a sword; and in the left, which is in the sign Virgo, there is a lighted torch. The whole of this stone, with the exception of the arms of the figure, and a small part of the centre of the band, has been recovered; only one sign of the Zodiac (Cancer) is wanting. Behind, and near this stone, some other sculptured fragments were found, particularly two large cross-legged Phrygian figures, such as are usually seen as the attendants of Mithras in the bas-reliefs representing him killing the bull.\* These figures have evidently belonged to such a bas-relief (which probably occupied the recess behind the altars and Zodiac), as a fore-leg of the bull yet remains beneath one of them, and they both have the appearance of having been broken off a larger stone. It is much to be regretted that the whole of this stone has not been recovered, since, without doubt, it must originally have been a very fine representation of Mithras, the figures being above 2 feet high, cut in bold relief, and displaying much spirit and skill in their design and execution. From a fragment of the right shoulder, a hand grasping a sword-handle, and part of the drapery of the Phrygian dress, which have been found, and which without doubt have formed part of it, the figure of Mithras must have been nearly as large as life; the leg of the bull is also of

\* Several of these bas-reliefs will be found engraved in Montfaucon's "Antiquities," vol. i. in the chapter on Mithras. Engravings of the present altars and figures, with a copious dissertation and description, are intended to be published in the forthcoming part of the Society's Transactions.



corresponding size. Each of these figures bears a torch, crossing their bodies in a slanting direction, and with the flame elevated; the left hand of one of them is resting on something which appears to be a caduceus. The minor sculptured fragments were the horn of a bull, and a rude figure, supposed to be a scorpion, etc. In other parts of the chamber there were four or five other smaller altars found, only one of which was inscribed ("SOLI," etc.). This altar was standing in the north-east corner, near the entrance; and besides a short inscription, there was carved on its capital a bust of the sun, with rays encircling the head. From this account it is evident that there can be no doubt that the chamber thus opened had been a temple, or part of a temple, dedicated to Mithras, the worship of whom, as is well known, was performed in caverns and subterraneous temples, with which the half-sunk state of the chamber accords satisfactorily enough. The whole of these relics, with the exceptions of one of the large altars and that inscribed "SOLI," have been presented by Mr. Gibson to the Antiquarian Society of this town [Newcastle], and are now in their possession. Such an addition to the numerous and valuable Roman antiquities found at Housesteads, Carrvorran, etc., which they before possessed, cannot fail to render their collection one of the most curious and interesting in the kingdom.

[1855, *Part II.*, p. 395.]

Mr. John Clayton, in addition to the important discoveries which he is making in the great Roman station of Borcovicus on the Roman wall, has recently detected, a little to the east of the station, the foundations of one of the smaller towers, or, as they may be termed, half-mile castles. Only the sites of one or two of these were previously known, so completely have they been destroyed. The stonework of the tower is of a very substantial kind.

#### MILFIELD HILL.

[1823, *Part II.*, p. 163.]

An urn of Roman pottery, highly burnt, was recently discovered by some workmen of Mr. Grey, of Milfield Hill, near Wooler, in removing a mass of large stones that obstructed the ploughing of a field. It is 12 inches in diameter; cylindrical for 8 inches from the bottom, which part is impressed with a wavy pattern; it then terminates in a cover about 12 inches high, and would hold from four to five gallons of water. The urn was set upon a flat stone 4 feet below the surface. A large flat sand-stone was carefully placed over it; and above all, an accumulation of whinstones, from 80 to 200 cartloads, some of them of a large size. The urn contained a quantity of soft dust of a brown colour, and many small pieces of bones not completely consumed by fire. Those of the head are the most entire, especially parts of the skull and jaw-bones, in which,



although the teeth are quite gone, the sockets remain. The urn is in the possession of Mr. Grey.

#### NEWCASTLE.

[1844, *Part I.*, p. 299.]

The accompanying drawings represent two Roman altars, dug up within two months on the outside of the station of Pons Ælii, in its western suburbs. They had been used in the foundations of White Friar Tower (one of the towers of the town wall of Newcastle), the removal of which led to the discovery of these remains. The first is dedicated to Silvanus, but the name of the dedicator is unknown to us, as the lower part of the altar has been shorn, probably as early as the reign of Edward I., when it is supposed the tower was erected.

The other is of neat workmanship, and, like the other, about 16 or 17 inches in height, but uninscribed.

These add to the convincing evidence already deduced of Newcastle having been a Roman station.

It is probable, too, that we may not err in assigning a still earlier date as the period of its first occupation, as about three years ago there was found near the same spot a British coin in a coffin-shaped chamber, a few feet below the present surface.

Relics of all kinds doubtless lie hidden throughout the town, until some fortuitous circumstance brings them to light.

Geo. B. RICHARDSON.

#### RISINGHAM.

[1753, *pp.* 224, 225.]

Though a vast number of Roman antiquities have time after time been discovered in this isle, which serve to elucidate the history of former ages, yet nothing is more certain than that there are many which have not yet come to our knowledge, especially in those parts of the nation that are least frequented by travellers; an instance of which I have lately met with, on being ordered by the physicians to stir abroad, on account of my ill state of health. When going to view the ruins of an old Roman garrison on the water of Red in Northumberland, known by the name of Risingham Castle, I found stones with inscriptions on them scattered abroad everywhere, and lying unregarded; some of which I find Mr. Warburton (who formerly made a visit here) has transcribed into his map, though the greatest part of these now to be seen are discovered since that time. There are two particularly I could not help taking notice of, which the country-people told me were found about two years ago, standing upon pedestals; and are remarkable for the neatness of the work upon them: one of which is doubtless an altar erected to Jupiter, and has on the front thereof the following inscription.

In the last line but one (which I take to contain the name of the

tribune) there are some of the letters so much defaced that I could not possibly make them out. The three first are legible enough ; as also the M in the middle, and the four last ; but of the rest I will not be positive.

The other stone was found in the same place with this, and has an inscription [a plate of this is here given] on the front thereof.

The letters on this stone are all very fair, save the first, where it has been broken ; which in my opinion must have been VIXII, as on the other stone.

Hard by these stones there lies another, in a pool of the river, which seems to be of some consequence ; the carved work thereof being very visible, though a good way under water : but what letters are thereon I cannot tell. A mile higher up the river, at a little country town called Woodburn, I discovered another stone, which is now the cheek of a byar-door,\* more curiously engraved than any of the rest. At the upper end, on one side thereof, is a flying eagle beautifully cut ; and underneath an urn, a battle-axe, a bill-knife, and another figure somewhat resembling a frying-pan. The other side, as I was informed, is full of Roman capitals, but so walled up that there is no coming at them without pulling the side of the house down, and the difficulties we laboured under of getting a mason prevented our doing that. When the old house, where this byar now stands, was taken down, this stone was found in it ; on which the honest man it belongs to sent for the parson of the parish, who declared he was not able to read it ; from which (said he) concluding nobody else could, I ordered it to be walled up, as you now see it.—There is in this same town another stone that supports a chimney, which they told me had letters on it also ; but it is walled up in the same manner. There are also two more discovered about four years ago at Rochester, about 10 miles higher up the river, which they assured me had long inscriptions on them.

LIONEL CHARLTON.

[1841, *Part I.*, pp. 133-135.]

Camden and Cotton, in 1590, visited Risingham, a Roman station on the east border of the river Rede, near Woodburn, in Northumberland ; and in it the author of the “*Britannia*” found, and has printed in his book, eleven inscriptions, the first of which was dedicated to a local deity, by “*M. G. Secundus, a consular beneficiary of Habitancum, the first station*” from the Wall of Hadrian, which that author very fairly supposes to be the Roman name of Risingham. Since Camden’s time several other Roman antiquities have been found in the same station, of all of which I gave an account in my “*History of Northumberland*” in 1827 ; but, in 1838 and 1839, four Roman altars and some other antiquities have been found within the area of

\* Or cow-house.

the walls of Habitancum ; and of these I am now endeavouring to forward to you some sketches, and a few brief accounts.

The discovery of all these antiquities are due to the credit of Mr. R. Shanks, of Park House, near Risingham, and son of Mr. Thomas Shanks, proprietor of North Middleton, and of this station, and other estates in the valley of Chesterhope. He found them in digging for stones in the grass-grown ruins of a Roman bath, and at the south-east corner of the high and mouldering walls and towers of this ancient, but lone, and now uninhabited station. I visited and carefully copied the altars and coins in September last ; and Mr. R. Shanks still, in his garden, keeps and preserves them with care, within the view of the site they had first been built in, and, till lately, for nearly 1,400 years been buried, in undisturbed and nearly uninjured condition.

For method, I will divide my account into seven sections—from I. to V. on Inscriptions—VI. on Coins—and VII. on the Iron Scoria, all found near Risingham and its neighbourhood, and where

“ Rede upon his margin sees  
Sweet Woodburn's cottages and trees.”

I.—Mr. Shanks found this altar in 1838 ; and in April, the following year, Arthur Trevelyan, Esq., of Wallington, sent me a copy of it, a short notice of which I put into the Appendix of the last volume of my work on Northumberland. It is 28 inches high and plainly carved, but in great perfection, with exception of the last letter of the second line. The inscription, at full length, should be thus : DIS CULTORIBUS HUIUS LOCI JULIUS VICTOR TRIBUNUS [Huebner, p. 170]. To the Dii Cultores I have not before seen an account of any altar or other dedication ; nor can I suppose that these ideal divinities were erected as symbols of mere tillers of the earth, and in the bath of Habitancum implored only for fertility of the gardens “ of this place,” or for the fields of the surrounding ground. This Julius Victor, and one Æmilius Æmilianus, were both of them tribunes of the first cohort of the Vangii, and each of them erected an altar to Jupiter, of which their inscriptions, one in five, and the other in six lines, are printed in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for May, 1753 [*ante*, p. 252], one of which in its second and the other in its third line, are in abbreviated letters, of which I am still “unable to give a satisfactory explanation.” Mr. Lionel Charlton, a Northumberland gentleman, and author of the “History of Whitby,” both inspected and published, Mr. Urban, a drawing of each of them, in your magazine ; but the original altars are both, as I suppose, destroyed or lost, and no hope now remains of obtaining a sight of these two difficult lines. In Mr. Charlton's print their letters are VIXII . G. R. Q. C. A. The capital or head of the altar by Julius Victor is broken, and with it the sigil I. O. M. lost ; but in whatever form the second



and third sigils should be interpreted, they will not, I apprehend, be found to bear any reference to the Dii Cultores or to Jupiter, or to connect the one divinity with the other. This, however, may be mentioned as a well-known fact, that all the divinities of the heathens were variations of their Deus Maximus, and consequently that when Julius Victor gave devotions to each of his altars in Habitancum, he was praying to the same God. In his temple there he approached with reverence to Gods, who, he supposed, would *cultivate* and bless him; and these he adored, as Scipio did, when he saw them blessing him in his Dream, and Cicero's soul, in his account of it, was ravished in the sight of. Breathe, O History, "of this place," over her Roman days, and let a vision of her divinities, however mistaken, and of her warriors, however fearful, shine again brightly over her temples and towers!

II.—This altar, inscribed FORTUNAE SACRUM CAIVS VALERIUS LONGINUS TRIBUNUS [Huebner, p. 170], is curiously carved; 3 feet 3 inches high; and was found lying on the hanging floor of a sudatory, the pillars and other parts of the furnace of which were still nearly perfect; but the vaulted roof of the sudatory broken, and the space between it and the floor filled with fallen arched stones, and earth, and rubbish.

Baths of this kind seem to have been built in all the stations, both along the double line of Hadrian's Wall, and of the chains that defend it to the south and the north; for, at first, *between* the earthen and the stone wall, I have seen large remains of baths about the stations at Wallsend, Benwell, Hunnum, Carrawbrough, Housesteads, Caervorran, and Walton Chesters. Also in the contiguous stations, along the south side of the wall, I have traced decided remains of Roman baths, at South Shields, Lanchester, Ebchester, Corbridge, Little Chesters, Whitley Castle, and Carlisle; and in the only four stone-built stations, on the north side of the Wall of Hadrian, other similar and large remains of Roman baths have been found—namely, one at Netherby, another at the Birrens of Middleby on the west side, the third at Risingham, and the fourth at Rochester in Redesdale on the east side of the island; and these four stone-built stations are the last two on the two great Roman roads to the Wall of Antoninus, between the Firths of Forth and Clyde.

Besides great number of Roman baths being discovered on the line of Hadrian's Wall, I may also mention that altars to Fortune have also been found in other places as well as that of Habitancum—as at Hunnum, Carrawbrough, Housesteads, Little Chesters, Caervorran, Netherby, and the Birrens of Middleby, as well as one at Castle Carey, on the Wall of Antoninus Pius.

III.—This inscription is on a roughly picked sandstone, 3 feet broad in the front, 2 feet from front to back, and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick. The letters at length are FORTUNAE SACRUM CAIVS VALERIUS LONGINUS

TRIBUNUS [Huebner, p. 170], consequently the stone was "sacred to Fortune," by Caius Valerius Longinus, the tribune of the first cohort of the Vangiones. The focus, or thuribulum on front of the top, is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, and in form proves the decided use of the stone. Mr. Shanks, however, is of opinion that the monument, in the form which I here represent, was built against an inner wall of one of the rooms of the bath; and that at first it was erected as a base or pedestal to the altar number II., and that both of these, when perfect, were about 8 feet high; but, when he found them, recumbent, and lying confusedly together. All these stones he had carefully preserved; and is intending to erect them in a covered shed in his garden, to the height of 8 feet, as he supposes they were originally built.

Such altars to Fortune were generally prayers or thanksgivings for health, success in war, prosperity for fruitful fields or gardens,—indeed, for as many causes as human want could wish for. The expression, however, by which C. V. Longinus dedicated these two altars to Fortune is simply "sacrum;" so that we are left uncertain for the particular cause for which it was intended. That this situation at Habitancum—the furthest station but one north to the Roman barrier—was generally hazardous and often perilous, we need not wonder. The cohort of which he was a tribune here was the First of the Vangii, a people near Moguntia, now Mentz, on the left side of the Rhine, and was probably first settled here by Hadrian,\* about the year A.D. 120, when he began to build his wall, and this station, as well as Bremenium in Redesdale, and fixed in each of them a cohort, as Vegetius and other military authors call them, "Milites exploratores," and their stations, "Castra exploratorum;" and to soldiers, liable here to attacks by their northern enemies, and during a great part of the year subject to a bleak and cold situation, there might be many reasons, "with all appliances and means to boot" of a warm and cosy bath, to consecrate an altar to Fortune, and pray fervently for her help.

IV.—This, like the altar II. is curiously carved, and both of them were found on the floor of the semicircular part of a sudatory. The letters are FORTUNAE REDUCI JULIUS SEVERINUS TRIBUNUS EXPLICITO BALINEO VOTUM SOLVIT LIBENS MERITO [Huebner, p. 170]. The only imperfect letters in the whole inscription are the second and last of the second lines, in the names of Julius Severinus the Tribune. That he should often and fervently pray that "returning Fortune" would pour mercies and blessings on "the solicitous bath" of Habitancum, it cannot be considered unnatural. If its furnaces by accident had not destroyed it by fire, the vaulted walls of the bath might be frequently burnt or sacked by Caledonian enemies. To "returning

\* See the Rivingling Rescript in Gough's "Camden," and "Hist. Northum." II. iii. 311, 315.

Fortune" altars indeed are very common in foreign countries; and within the district of the Wall of Hadrian we have one at Alneburgh, another at the Birrens of Middleby, and here one at Risingham.

V.—The walls of the bath have been much altered and repaired. Many hewn and carved stones have been built in various parts of it; and among them Mr. Shanks has found the following inscriptions, one of which consists of the right uppermost corner of four lines of an imperial monument in these letters, and in memory, probably, of Septimius Severus, or of his son and successor Caracalla: [Huebner, p. 175]

(1.) IMP'CAES'M..... (2.) ANTONINUS...

(3.) ADIABENICUS..... (4.) AV [IV]...

The other fragment is on a very rude stone, with the following letters on the right-hand side:

(1.) I.O.M..... (2.) IMP...P.....

VI.—The coins found here, and in the possession of Mr. Shanks of Park House, are not remarkable for their impressions, rarity, or number, but have in them a local curiosity, as found in Habitancum, and principally in its bath. There are fifteen in the whole—three of silver, and three of copper plated with silver; and three of large and six of second and third brass, the six last of which are from the time of Gallienus, in A.D. 254, to that of M. A. Claudius, in 269. I will give a list of the whole, to preserve an account of their order, and of the dates of Roman use in Habitancum.

I.—SILVER, or brass plated with silver.—1. *Obverse*, IMP ANTONINVS PIVS AVG. *Reverse*, VICTORIA, copper, plated with silver.—2. *O.* IVLIA DOMNA AVG. *R.* VENERI VICT., silver, fine impression.—3. *O.* IVLIA AVGVSTA. *R.* FORTVNAE FELICI, silver, black, and fine impression.—4. *O.* IVLIA AVGVSTA. *R.* L.....A., copper, plated with silver.—5. *O.* SEPT. GETA CAES PONT. *R.* ...M...P IIII' COS III RT., copper, plated.—6. *O.*.....VALERIANVS. *R.* VICT AVGG., copper, plated.

II.—Large Brass.—1. *O.*.....INAE AVG... *R.*.....S.C. The rest corroded, but that of Faustina the younger.—2. *O.* ANTONINVS AVG PIVS PP TRP COS III. *R.* CONCO....S.C.—3. *O.* IMP CAE SEPT..... *R.* quite corroded.

III.—Second and Third Brass.—1. *O.* GALLIENVS AVG. *R.* PROV AVG.—2. *O.* GALLIENVS AVG. *R.* VIRTVS AVG.—3. *O.* IMP.C VICTORINVS PR AVG. *R.* PAX AVG.—4. *O.*.....VICTOR..... *R.* COM AVG..... much worn.—5. *O.* DIVO CLAVDIO. *R.* CONSECRATIO. A vulture.—6. *O.* IMP. CLAVDIVS AVG. *R.* APOLLINI CONS. — Naked figure.

VII.—Iron scoria is found in grass and wood-covered heaps near the walls of Habitancum, and in the estate of Parkhead, and other parts of the valley of Chesterhope, which lies within the ancient prin-



cipality of Redesdale. About Broomhope and Steele,\* two miles further to the south, and by remains of a Roman paved way, which stretched one way into Watling Street in Chesterhope, and the other across the North Tyne to Lee Hall, other large masses of iron slag have been found. All these have been smelted by very indifferent metallurgists : but whether they were made in the Roman or more modern ages I have not evidence to prove. Certain, however, it is that in the time of Henry the Third, Gilbert de Umfreville had "forges, which made iron," within his royalty of Redesdale ; and six powerful furnaces are now smelting iron about a mile from Risingham in Chesterhope.

Yours, etc. JOHN HODGSON.

[1842, *Part I.*, pp. 535, 536.]

Mr. Richard Shanks, of Broadgates, near Risingham, who has for the last three years been employed in investigating the extensive ruins of Habitancum, and in whose garden I made drawings and minutes of the altars, coins, and curiosities described in your magazine in February, 1841, has favoured me with drawings and observations on four Roman grave-stones since discovered by him within the great wall that surrounds the station, on a level to each other, their ends inwards, and the inscriptions on the under side. "Not a letter is defaced by the hand of time." Number I. was found at the north-east corner of the wall, numbers II. and III. about 20 feet further to the south, and all of them about 6 inches thick, with the back side quite rough.

The inscriptions are in the following letters, all in capitals, and some in words much abbreviated, but below translated in Latin and English at length. The figures, 1, 2, etc., show the beginning and number of each line : [Huebner, p. 176]

I.—<sup>1</sup>D.M <sup>2</sup>SA TRIVS <sup>3</sup>HONORATVS <sup>4</sup>VIXIT. AN <sup>4</sup>NIS . V . ME<sup>5</sup>SIBVS . VIII.

Diis manibus. Satrius Honoratus vixit annis quinque, mensibus octo.—To the Gods of the Shades below. Satrius Honoratus lived five years, eight months.—This tombstone is 38 inches by 22, and has the six lines of the inscription cut in capital letters on a writing tablet.

II.—<sup>1</sup>D.M.S. <sup>2</sup>AVR . QVART<sup>3</sup>LA . VIX . AN<sup>4</sup>NIS . XIII . M . V . <sup>5</sup>D . XXII . AVR . <sup>6</sup>QVARTINVS <sup>7</sup>POSVIT . FILI<sup>8</sup>AE . SVAE . : [Huebner, p. 176]

\* Steele is very probably a Saxon name, given to it by the quantity of iron scoria, which the Romans worked near the place, and the Saxons found, when they settled upon it ; for *stahl* is still the German name for all kinds of pure iron-ore ; and *steel*, in English, is still for iron "refined and purified by the fire." The iron now made in Redesdale may still, from its purity, be dignified by the name of steel.

Diis manibus sacrum. Aurelia Qvartila vixit annis tredecim, mensibus quinque, diebus viginti duo. Aurelius Qvartinus posuit filiæ suæ.—Sacred to the Gods of the Shades below. Aurelia Qvartila lived thirteen years, five months, twenty-two days. Aurelius Qvartinus set it to his daughter.—The stone is nearly 3 feet high, but its top and bottom are broken off.

III.—<sup>1</sup>DMS <sup>2</sup>AVR. LVPV<sup>3</sup>LE MATRI <sup>4</sup>PISSIME <sup>5</sup>DIONYSIVS <sup>6</sup>FORTVNATVS FILIVS <sup>8</sup>ST T <sup>9</sup>T L: [Huebner, p. 176]

Diis manibus sacrum. Aureliæ Lupulæ matri piissimæ Dionysius Fortunatus filius. Sit tibi terra levis.—Sacred to the Gods of Spirits. To Aurelia Lupula, mother the most tender, Dionysius Fortunatus, the son. Light be the ground to thee.—Height, 30 inches; breadth, 21. Each end broken.

IV.—<sup>1</sup>IVL. . VICTOR <sup>2</sup>SIC VIX AN <sup>3</sup>LV: [Huebner, p. 176]

Julius Victor sicut vixit annos quatuor.—Julius Victor lived nearly fifty-five years.—This is on a stone 2 feet high, but broken at both ends.

Among the Romans, as at present, funereal monuments were very commonly raised out of the graves of one age, to be used as common stones for the walls and buildings of others. All the altars and coins I described to you in December last, as well as these four grave-stones, have been lately presented to the Museum of the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle.

Yours, etc.

JOHN HODGSON.

## Nottinghamshire.

### BARTON-UPON-TRENT.

[1856, *Part I.*, pp. 506, 507.]

On the 14th April an interesting discovery was made on the farm of Abbey Flats, which forms part of the glebe lands of Barton-upon-Trent. The fold-yard has long been known to contain portions of tessellated pavements, and it is in the field immediately adjoining it to the east that the present discoveries have been laid bare. For a long time patches at intervals over the surface of this field have either failed to produce crops, notwithstanding the fertility of the red clay of which the field is composed, or have presented squares of scanty and stunted produce in great contrast to the rest of the field. The cause has now been discovered. The plough struck against the edge of what proves to be a tessellated pavement not a foot beneath the surface. The Rev. Mr. Wintour, the rector, having set some labourers to work, gently cleared the surface, and at the depth of a foot laid bare about one-fourth, diagonally, of a pavement of bold and elegant geometrical designs in red, white, and blue, as fresh and beautiful as

the day when it was first laid down. The space thrown open formed an oblong rectangle, measuring 15 feet by 10 feet, extending lengthwise due east and west. This rectangle is occupied by an outer border of small red  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch tiles, 3 feet broad on the west and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  on the south. This is succeeded by an inner border of blue 9 inches broad; and then by delicate double lines of small white tiles, including a magnificent scroll border 6 inches broad of interlacing red, white, and blue tiles, succeeded by another delicate double white line. The centre part within this brilliant bordering (separated from it by a double line of blue) is occupied with a great variety of geometrical figures. In all these the colouring of the tiles is remarkably brilliant. The flooring appears to be laid down on a cement, which, however, reposes upon artificial soil of very great depth, presenting the colour of a dark fertile mould, very unlike the red clay of the field in general. Mr. Wintour has met invariably intermixed with the soil small pieces of charred wood, as if the edifices here situated had been completely destroyed by fire. Large stones and traces of wall foundations are, however, discovered abundantly in the field.

## LITTLEBOROUGH.

[1772, *p.* 415.]

I send you as exact a representation as may be of the shape and size of an antiquity in stone, with the inscription or legend on the edges or rim of the two ends, and of one side thereof (for on the other side, or elsewhere, there appears to have been none), found lately by casting up the ground in the neighbourhood of Littleborough in this county.

It is supposed to be a tessera, or kind of tally, such being, as we are told, a little flat square piece of stone, and having a particular inscription, and was used in the Roman armies, by being, on certain occasions, delivered to each of their soldiers to distinguish them from the enemy, and also in their setting their nightly guard, by being given from one centurion to another, quite through the army, till it returned to the tribune, who first delivered it. Upon receipt of this the guard was set immediately.

C. D.

## MANSFIELD.

[1786, *Part II.*, *p.* 616.]

A gentleman, not far from Mansfield, in Nottinghamshire, has discovered three rooms of tessellated pavement in digging among the ruins of a large Roman building, one of which being 6 yards square, and half of it perfect, is allowed, by those who have seen it, to be the most curious and beautiful of the sort ever beheld in this part of the kingdom. It is paved with  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch squares. The whole length of the foundation is 20 yards by 14 odd measure, consisting of nine or



ten rooms, standing in the middle of a corn-field. It is now filled up, to prevent further damage being done to the premises and corn-fields, till after the harvest is in, when further researches are expected to be made. The above is about a mile north of Mansfield Woodhouse, in Nottinghamshire.

## Oxfordshire.

## BEACONSFIELD.\*

[1811, *Part I.*, p. 388.]

The workmen who discovered the Roman burial-ground on Beaconsfield Farm have, in pursuing their work, arrived at the Roman bath described by Plott in his "*Antiquities of Oxfordshire.*" The bath was always visible, but was considered as a small stew, walled round with rough stone, till the workmen discovered the tessellated floor near it. Here the Roman tiles and the tessellation are still in a state of good preservation, although in a wet situation. The oak dug up is sound, black, and heavy.

## STONESFIELD.

[1818, *Part I.*, p. 364.]

The remains of a Roman villa were lately discovered on the Duke of Marlborough's estate at Stonesfield, 11 miles from Oxford. They were first pointed out in 1816 by the Rev. Mr. Brown, vicar of that parish. By the assistance of that gentleman and of the Duke of Marlborough extensive discoveries have been made. The building encloses about 3 acres of land; the peristyle, on every side of the quadrangle, is very evident, as are the divisions of forty-seven rooms. The pavements are tessellated, and in good condition. One of them, in a large room, is perfect. The tesserae are so exactly laid together, so beautifully varied, and the pattern so correct and elegant, that the best floor-cloth is not painted with more accuracy or beauty. The pattern is one which frequently appears on our modern floor-cloths. The baths are completely excavated, and the hypocausts and flues, by which they warmed the rooms, in the manner we have adopted for hot-houses, are apparent. The largest rooms seem to be about 30 by 25; one is exactly 28 by 24; a proportion, in which the length exceeds the width much less than in modern rooms. Nothing has yet been found to fix the precise date of the villa; the coins collected are those of Constantine the Great, who was Cæsar in 306, and Augustus from 308 to 337.

[\* This is accidentally misplaced. It should, of course, be under Bucks.]

## Rutland.

## MARKET OVERTON.

[1865, *Part II.*, p. 144.]

About two years ago Mr. Christopher Bennett discovered numerous remains of ancient art in the parishes of Market Overton and Thistleton, about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles from the former village: they consisted of numerous coins, fragments of Samian ware and other pottery, hair-pins, stateræ, etc. In the course of last month other excavations were made by Mr. Bennett, and the new "diggings" produced a considerable quantity of Roman pottery, coins, hair-pins (bone and bronze), iron clamps, etc. The pottery just discovered includes fragments of vases of the beautiful coralline red-ware known as Samian, profusely ornamented, the ornamentation exhibiting the familiar egg-and-tongue border, figures taken from the ancient mythology, beasts, birds, tassels, etc., in relief; a portion of an amphora, which when perfect held several gallons of wine or oil, etc. Amongst the coins are the following: a first brass of Lucius Verus, associated in the government of the empire with Marcus Aurelius about A.D. 161 (rare); a first brass of Hadrian; a second brass of Antoninus Pius; two third brasses of Carausius, Emperor of Britain, largest dated M.XL., the year of Rome 1040, or A.D. 287, the year in which he assumed the purple and title of Augustus in Britain in opposition to the Emperors Maximian and Diocletian (very good); a third brass of Magnentius, A.D. 353 (?); a small coin struck upon the removal of the capital of the empire from Rome to Constantinople by Constantine, etc. The Nottingham branch of the Ermin Street passes through the western side of the parish of Thistleton, near where these interesting remains have been discovered.

[1866, *Part II.*, p. 609.]

Recent discoveries made in the parishes of Market Overton and Thistleton by Mr. Christopher Bennett denote a considerable Roman settlement of some kind, possibly a large *vicus*; and already the local antiquaries are discussing the claims of the site to represent the Margidunum of the sixth Iter of Antoninus, usually fixed at Willoughby or at East Bridgeford, though Market Overton has not been without its advocates, notwithstanding it less agrees with the distances from the stations to the north and south. The most striking of the discoveries is what is stated to be a large richly-sculptured foliated capital. Now the base of the Norman baptismal font in Market Overton Church is said to be a Roman capital reversed, ornamented with trefoils and the egg-and-tongue pattern; and the church itself stands within an ancient camp. The remains, collected by Mr. C. Bennett, up to the present time include upwards

of 300 Roman coins, three steelyards, a short sword with carved bone handle, a knife with bone handle, bone and bronze bodkins and pins, fragments of the fine red glazed and other varieties of pottery, and a hand-mill. Mr. Bennett is about to make excavations where the capital was discovered, with sanguine hopes of bringing to light the foundations of the building to which it belonged.

C. ROACH SMITH.

## Shropshire.

### BISHOP'S CASTLE.

[1786, *Part II.*, pp. 924, 925.]

About a foot below the surface of the earth was found (in 1767), in a piece of land about 3 miles north-west of Bishop's Castle, in Shropshire, a block of lead, of which the above (see Plate II., Fig. 1) is an exact drawing. There are two stamps upon the border that runs round the relievo, the letters of which, I think, are WINP; and, as I apprehend, they stand for "Quinquevirorum jussu notatum plumbum." This is mere conjecture. Let me, however, observe as to the two first letters: "Deducebatur colonia aut per triumviros, aut per decemviros, quamvis et quinquevirorum, septemvirorum, vigintivirorum coloniae deducendae hinc inde fiat mentio."\*

The inscriptions I consider as a proof that, in the time of Hadrian, the mines in Britain were worked solely for the advantage of the Emperor, agreeable to what Suetonius says: "Plurimis etiam civitatibus et privatis veteres immunitates, et jus metallorum ac vectigalia adempta."†

However, private adventurers were afterwards permitted to work them. I again refer to Heineccius,‡ who says: "Restituerant deinde iisdem hoc beneficium sequentes principes, sed eâ lege, ut certum inde *canonem metallicam* solverent, de quo agit L. 4. C. Theodosii de Metallar. & ibi Jo. Gothofredus." And we are told in the "Codex" what this *canon metallicus* was: "Cuncti, qui per privatorum loca saxorum venam laboriosis effossionibus persequentur, *decimas fisco, decimas etiam domino* repræsentent.§

The adventurers were to pay a tenth to the crown, and a tenth to the owners of the land, which, by the way, proves that the mineral duties paid to the king, or his lessee, in the Peak and Wapentake of the county of Derby, are of great antiquity. In the law immediately following that I have above quoted, mention is made of the "Procuratores Metallorum"—officers that exactly answer to the "Berg-Masters," or, as the word is now pronounced, "Bar-Masters," of this time. "Berg" signifies "a mine," as appears by the word "rabbit-burrough" still in use.

\* Heineccii Antiquit. Roman. Append. Libri primi, 119.

† In Tiberio, 49.   ‡ Ut supra, sect. 112.   § Codicis, Lib. xi. Tit. vi. 3.



If the mines of this island were, in the time of Hadrian, worked solely for his advantage, it is natural to think that the blocks of metal were, at that time, stamped in order to prevent lead being sold by any but the imperial officers.

But why a double stamp, if the letters of both stamps are the same? I protest I know not. But I have a small suspicion that the concluding letter of one of the stamps is a B. If so, the interpretation may be "Quinqueviri in Britannia." And then it will be plain that, for greater security, the practice was that all lead exposed to sale passed through the hands of two public officers.

ONEBEYENSIS.

#### LINLEY HALL.

[1856, *Part II.*, p. 500.]

The remains of a Roman villa, which promises to be a very interesting one, have just been found near Linley Hall, in Shropshire, the seat of the ancient border family of More. The site, near upon the boundary-line of Wales, is not far distant from the mining districts of the parish of Shelve, where numerous traces of the Roman lead mining operations are still visible, and pigs of lead, with the name of the Emperor Hadrian stamped upon them, have been found at no great distance from Linley. The Rev. T. F. More, the present representative of the More family, has taken the opportunity of a visit of Mr. Thomas Wright to Linley Hall to commence excavations with the advice of that gentleman, and the first result was the discovery of some small apartments, with the remains of the hypocaust for warming them. The floors were strewn with pieces of large square Roman tiles, of flue-tiles and roof-tiles, and of smooth stucco from the walls. Mr. More has since continued the excavations with success, but they seem as yet only to have extended to some of the inferior parts of the building, which appear to have been very extensive, as indications of underground masonry may be traced over the surface of two extensive pasture-fields, as well as in Linley Park. In the latter Mr. More has followed up, in his excavations, a strong wall to a length of no less than 100 yards, and has not yet reached the termination of it; and he has met with an underground aqueduct leading to the villa from a small piece of water close to Linley Hall, which there is reason for supposing to have been a Roman reservoir.

#### TERNBRIDGE.

[1798, *Part I.*, p. 162.]

About three weeks ago, as Lord Berwick's workmen were employed in digging his lordship's new piece of water, between Ternbridge and the river Severn, in a ploughed field, yet at a very little more than plough-depth beneath the surface of the earth, they came to an enclosure of large stones, within which were ranged three large glass urns of very elegant workmanship, one large earthen

urn, and two smaller ones of fine red earth. Each of the urns has one handle, and the handles of the glass urns are elegantly ribbed. The glass urns were about 12 inches in length, and 10 in diameter. The large earthen urn is so much broken that its dimensions cannot be made out ; but on its handle are stamped the letters SPAH, which are supposed to be the workman's mark ; the small urns are about 9 inches high. Within the glass urns were the remains of burnt bones and fine mould, and in each a fine glass lachrymatory, consisting of the same materials as the urn, which are a most beautiful transparent light green. Near one of them was a part of a jaw-bone, with a grinder quite perfect therein. An earthen lamp, and a few Roman coins of the lower empire, of no value, were discovered in the same place. The whole was covered with large flat stones, whereon was laid a quantity of coarse rock stone ; from which extraordinary care to preserve these remains, as well as from the fine quality and colour of the glass, it may be presumed to have been the burial-place of some family of distinction, resident in the neighbouring colony of Uriconium. One of the glass urns, and part of another, the fragments of the larger earthen urn, one of the small ones, one of the lachrymatories, the lamp, and a few coins, are the only parts of this most curious discovery which were rescued from the spades of the workmen. These are at present at the Talbot Inn, in Atcham ; but it is intended to put them in the library at Attingham.

WEM.

[1795, *Part II.*, p. 725.]

The "ruined town" near Wem, inquired after in p. 543, I take to be an ancient encampment on the top of a considerable eminence near Hawkstone, the beautiful seat of Sir Richard Hill, Bart. Its form is square, or, at least, quadrangular ; from which, I suppose, you may infer that it is Roman, as its name, "The Bury Walls," seems further to denote. It might, perhaps, be satisfactory to know its appellation in old writings and title-deeds ; an information which, if it belongs to the gentleman above-mentioned, may, from his known urbanity and love of literature, be easily procured. The river Rodent runs, I believe, not far from the spot in question, and in this stream the name Rutunium may perhaps be found, as Derventium is in Derwent, etc.

Yours, etc. SCIOLUS.

WROXETER.

[1813, *Part I.*, p. 9.]

Having often been solicited by my antiquarian friends to make a drawing of the Roman Wall at Wroxeter, County Salop, I have at last complied with their requests, and I do not know a more eligible repository for it than Mr. Urban's. This very curious remain of antiquity is situated in the Hundred of Bradford South, about five

miles south-east of Shrewsbury. The wall represented is  $24\frac{3}{4}$  yards long, and about  $7\frac{1}{4}$  yards high. The drawing shows the south side of the wall ; the north side has a smoother surface, with rows or strata of Roman brick ; under the second, fourth, and sixth strata of brick are holes, as for scaffolds. Roman coins are often ploughed up, chiefly of the lower empire, and are usually called Dinders, probably a corruption of Denarii. Several urns have been discovered 3 or 4 feet below the surface ; also tessellated pavements, and sepulchral stones, inscribed, two of which are preserved in the library at the Free Schools in Shrewsbury, and another since discovered is placed against the vicarage house for the inspection of the curious.

Yours, etc. D. PARKES.

[1828, *Part I.*, p. 255.]

We are informed by our correspondent "Salopiensis" that a fragment of a tessellated pavement was discovered at the Roman station of Uriconium (Wroxeter), County Salop, in the latter part of 1827, and is a pattern by far the most elegant that has hitherto been found at that place. When entire it appears to have formed the floor of an apartment 15 feet square. The ground of the whole is a dark purple. The ornamented part formed a parallelogram, the upper and lower parts of which appear to have been occupied by a broad border of convoluted wreaths of tessellæ, red, green, and white, enclosing within each compartment formed by the curves of the wreaths a roundel of red and white tessellæ. The central figure consisted of four square compartments, formed by narrow borders of convoluted wreaths, red, green, and white, having the four corners of each worked into semi-circular ornaments by similar borders of wreath-work. A circle of beautiful interlaced work, red and white, within two interesting squares of convoluted wreaths, red, green, and white, and green and white, occupied the centre of each square. A border of similar convoluted wreath-work surrounded the whole pavement, which was terminated by a deep border of plain green tessellæ of a larger size, divided from the former border by three very narrow stripes of small tessellæ, white, purple, and white. The whole is now destroyed ; but an accurate drawing has been made of it, from which a coloured etching has been published.

[1859, *Part I.*, pp. 448-458.]

About five miles and a half from Shrewsbury, close upon the banks of the river Severn, stands the little village of Wroxeter, consisting of a church, a rectory-house, and a few farm-houses and cottages. The ground rises eastwardly from the river, the course of which is here from north to south, and forms a gentle elevation commanding a fine view of the valley of the Severn. Behind, directly eastward, is the famed Wrekin ; and the horizon to the south and west is formed by the Wenlock and Stretton hills, Lawley hill, Caer-Caradoc, the Long-



Mynd, the Breidden, and the more distant mountains of Wales. Towards the north the elevated ground of Wroxeter sinks into a hollow and rises again, and at the bottom of this hollow runs a small brook known by the name of Bell-brook. At a short distance to the south of the church will be observed some very uneven ground rising into high mounds which overlook the river. From this uneven ground we trace a long continuous mound, at first due eastward along the side of the rising ground into the glebe-land, where it takes a bend, till it runs nearly in a northerly direction, crossing the little valley and Bell-brook, then turning along the higher ground on the other side of the brook, till it reaches the hamlet of Norton, where it turns suddenly westward and makes a long curve, recrossing Bell-brook, just before the latter crosses the road to Shrewsbury, and continuing the curve until it approaches the river Severn, the bank of which it follows until it reaches the place from which we started. This mound, which is somewhat more than three miles in circuit, covers the wall of inclosure and defence of an ancient city. The surface of the ground within it is strewed everywhere with small fragments of pottery, bricks, and mortar; quantities of Roman antiquities have been picked up at all times when people were digging a little deeper than usual; remains of buildings underground have been accidentally discovered at different spots within the inclosure of the walls; portions of columns and sculptured stones have been frequently met with in the ground or in the river, and some of them are preserved in the gardens of the rectory and farm-houses; and, lastly, on the highest part of the ground, nearly in the centre of the inclosure, stands above ground a massive piece of wall, of that unmistakable kind of masonry, with its long thin bonding-courses of red tiles or bricks, which we recognise at once as Roman. This wall, which has been long known popularly as the "Old Wall," or the "Old Works," runs nearly east and west, or at least sufficiently nearly so to allow us to adopt those points of the compass in speaking generally of it.

A single glance at this long straggling line of defensive wall is enough to convince us that, as appears to have been the case with the walls of most of the Roman towns in Britain, it must have been constructed at a late period—in fact, that Uriconium was probably an open town, which no doubt went on increasing in magnitude, and that it was not until it had reached its greatest extent that it was walled, probably amid the civil contentions and formidable invasions from without which marked the later period of the Roman domination in our island. It was probably at the close of that domination, amid the struggles of the Roman population against their barbarian assailants, that Uriconium fell into the power of the latter, who plundered it, massacred those of its inhabitants whom they did not carry away into slavery, and delivered the town to the flames, which left it a mass of blackened ruins.

From time immemorial the farmers have been in the habit of digging into the ground, especially on the line of the town wall, for building materials, and the villagers and farm labourers point out different spots where, either in their own memory or according to local tradition,\* objects of interest have been discovered. About the year 1700 the smith's shop was burnt down, and the tenant, in want of materials to rebuild it, set his eyes upon a spot in a field where he had observed that the corn grew worse than on other parts, and he proceeded to dig there. The result was the discovery of a tessellated pavement, and the remains of rooms and hypocausts, an account of which was published in the *Philosophical Transactions*. At other times, a pavement was found in the outskirts of the village ; in a field to the northward of the village, what are described as the remains of a bath were met with ; and still more recently, when the tenant was erecting the cruciform farm buildings in the northernmost corner of the field last mentioned, near the side of the Watling Street road, the men employed in digging for the foundations came upon the remains of Roman buildings, the exact character of which is not known. The sites of these various discoveries are marked in the accompanying map. No attempt, however, had been made to explore systematically the site of *Uriconium*, when in the summer of the last year, Mr. Thomas Wright, who had long looked upon the spot with the interest he felt both as an antiquary and as a native of Shropshire, suggested the undertaking to Beriah Botfield, Esq., M.P. for the borough of Ludlow, who entered into the proposal with zeal, and offered to head with a handsome contribution a subscription for carrying it out, if Mr. Wright would promise to direct the excavations. The excavations were commenced on the 3rd of February of the present year, and have been continued ever since, under the immediate care of Dr. Henry Johnson, of Shrewsbury, who accepted the office of Honorary Secretary of the Committee of Excavations.

Wroxeter presents the site of an ancient city under circumstances unusually favourable to the researches of the antiquary. A very small portion of the ground, and that probably the least interesting of *Uriconium*, has been disturbed by modern buildings ; while the position and nature of the ground have rendered it unnecessary to have recourse to the process of deep draining, which would have broken up the ruins below. All, however, depended upon the depth at

\* There is said to have been a well, or fountain, on the bank, sloping down to Bell-brook, near where this brook crosses the Watling Street road, now covered up, but which some of the oldest inhabitants remember to have seen open, and they can point out its site. It was believed that great treasures were concealed under this fountain, and the following proverbial rhymes have been current in the parish from time immemorial :—

“ By the brook of Bell  
There is a well  
Which is richer than any man can tell.”



which these ruins lie, and, to solve approximately this question, it was resolved to commence the excavations by sinking a pit to the foundation of the Old Wall. The bottom of the Old Wall was discovered at a depth of no less than 14 feet below the present surface of the ground. A trench was then dug to the northward from the Old Wall, and three walls running parallel to it were successively met with. The Old Wall itself was next traced under ground, and, after a small interval, where it has probably been dug up for materials, its continuation was met with, and traced nearly to the hedge which separates the field from the Watling Street road. Here it joined a wall nearly at right angles to it, and running parallel to the hedge, to which transverse wall the walls parallel to the Old Wall were also traced. Another transverse wall was met with in the opposite direction, joining the eastern end of the Old Wall, and running (as is not unfrequently the case in Roman buildings) not quite at right angles to the other walls. The extensive building thus traced will be understood by the accompanying plan of the excavations, in which the Old Wall, which stands above ground, is indicated by the darker shade *aa*. It forms a parallelogram, divided in its length by the walls *bb* and *cc* into three compartments, of which the middle one is exactly 226 feet long by 30 feet wide, and has been neatly paved in its whole extent with small red bricks, 3 inches long by one wide, set in what is called herring-bone fashion. This sort of pavement is generally considered to indicate that the place was open to the sky, although here a few pieces of broken roof-tiles were found scattered about. Of the two long passages to the north and south of this inner parallelogram, the one to the south was uniformly about 14 feet wide, and that to the north, between the walls *cc* and *dd*, was 13 feet 9 inches wide at the western, and 16 feet at the eastern end. Neither appears to have been uniformly paved; a fine tessellated pavement was found at the eastern end of the one to the north, and a fragment of similar mosaic was met with about half way along the other. The two walls which separated these passages from the central area *bb* and *cc* are each 4 feet thick; while that of which the Old Wall formed a part is only 3 feet thick, and the outer wall to the north, *dd*, is 3 feet 9 inches in thickness. In the middle of the wall last-mentioned there is a considerable break, evidently made by the tearing up of the materials, but it is not improbable that there was an entrance here, and that the wall was torn to pieces on both sides in the eagerness of the mediæval builders to obtain the large stones which formed the doorway. At the western end of the central area, the wall had two breaks, *ff*, in which stood, evidently *in situ*, in one a single large stone, in the other two similar stones, one placed on the other, which were carefully squared, and one of them had bevelled mouldings, as though they had formed the basements for large columns, and this probably was the entrance from what is now the Watling Street road into this part of



the building. Several fragments of large columns and plinths of stone, and one capital, which lay in a reversed position by the side of the Old Wall, show that this building, whatever may have been its purpose, was not devoid of architectural ornamentation. At the eastern end of the central area was a step formed of one large square stone, *g*, with a corresponding opening in the wall, which appeared to be the bottom of a doorway. It led into an enclosure, *h*, which had no pavement, and seems by the set-off on the wall all round to have been an open court. The northernmost wall, *ddd*, was subsequently traced in an eastern direction to an extent, altogether, of more than 300 feet, but the excavators were stopped by the hedge. A little before it reached the hedge, however, a wall was met with running from it south, and inclosing a large space, *i*, which, though not extensively explored, appeared to be without pavement or subdivisions, and may have been a large open court, or perhaps a garden. One or two trenches were dug northwardly from the outer wall, *ddd*, and each brought to light a portion of a continuous pavement of small round stones, which evidently occupied the middle of a street, and resembled very much the pavement of our old mediæval towns, as it may be seen to perfection in Leicester, and in Shrewsbury itself. There appears, therefore, to be little doubt that this great building stood in the corner formed by a street occupying here the line of the Watling Street road, and another which ran at right angles to it.

The wall *bb* terminated short of the eastern wall of the central apartment, but it is uncertain whether the breach has been caused by the tearing up of materials or was a doorway. There is a similar uncertainty with regard to the other end of this wall; but it is probable that there was, somewhere or other, a doorway from this central area into the southern passage, which was probably open to the air: at least, the northern face of the Old Wall, *aa*, which formed one side of it, has every appearance of being the external face of a building. Nearly in the middle of it is a large breach, as may be seen in the rather imperfect representation of this wall in the corner of our map. There can be no doubt that this breach has been made chiefly by the breaking away of the material, but this breaking away may perhaps have been caused, as we have supposed to be the case in that in the northern wall, by the desire to get away the large stones which formed a doorway. Further along this passage, towards the west, occurred two steps, *k* and *l*, each made of a single stone, and leading to openings in the continuation of the old wall, exactly like the similar step at the eastern end of the great area. The more western of these steps, *k*, was very much worn by the feet of those who had trodden over it, which was not the case with the other. The workmen were directed to dig a trench southward from the opening in the wall at *l*. They appear at first to have come into a mere yard, but they soon fell in with the semicircular end of a room with a hypocaust (*m*).

This proved, when it was cleared, to have been a handsome room, 37 feet long, including the semicircular end, and 25 in breadth. The floor had disappeared, with the exception of a mass of the concrete of which it was formed, and which remains in the north-eastern corner. It was supported by above 120 pillars, formed of the flat square Roman tiles, just 3 feet high, and in a very perfect condition when first uncovered. A passage through the eastern wall of this hypocaust led into another hypocaust (*o*), the entrance to which was by an archway turned with Roman tiles. This entrance was approached on the outside by a staircase (*p*) of three steps, each formed of a single stone, the workmanship of which is extremely sharp and fresh. To the east of this staircase was found a small room (*q*), 8 feet square, with a herring-bone pavement, like that in the great area to the north. There appears to have been a wide passage in the eastern wall of this little room, which led into a smaller apartment with a hypocaust (*r*). Eastward of this room again runs a passage between two walls, in which is a square pit, *s*, occupying the whole breadth of it, and across the bottom of which runs an extremely well-formed drain, *tt*, in a direction at right angles to the Old Wall. The floor of this drain is formed of the well-known large Roman roof-tiles, the flanged edges turned upwards. To the southward of this passage the excavators have just entered upon another hypocaust, which is not yet opened. To the north, the space between the passage and the Old Wall has not yet been fully explored. This (the southern) side of the Old Wall has on its face arches, which are evidently the springings of vaulted roofs, and transverse walls have been discovered answering to all these arches, and evidently belonging to a series of rooms (*uuuu*), which were vaulted in the manner called barrel-roofs. In one of them was found a quantity of burnt wheat, so that they may have been storerooms. The space to the west, between these excavations and the hedge of the Watling Street road, has not yet been explored, except by a short trench which laid open the portion of walls indicated at *v* in our plan. These show that the western wall of the great building on the north was continued along the side of the Watling Street road, and within it appears to have been small and mean rooms, perhaps shops, or the dwellings of the poorer inhabitants of Uriconium.

Such is the state of the excavations on the site of this ancient city in the month of April, after little more than two months' work; for, during more than a fortnight, their progress at this place has been suspended by circumstances to which, as the obstacle is probably by this time removed, we will do no more than allude. They have evidently laid open, in the first place, a large building destined for some public purpose, to the south of which they are entering upon a magnificent mansion, which no doubt belonged to one of the principal people in the town. The excavators are evidently coming upon dis-



coveries that will prove more interesting than any of those they have yet made ; and we look forward with, we think, well-grounded hopes to the result of the further diggings. It is the first opportunity that has yet occurred of obtaining any satisfactory knowledge of the internal character of a Roman town in Britain.

Little, of course, has yet been done towards tracing the distribution of the buildings in the Roman town, but enough has already been brought to light to give us a tolerable general notion of the character of the buildings themselves. The walls of the houses, even the partition-walls between one room and another, are in no instances less than 3 feet thick. The fine massive character of this masonry may be seen to advantage in the descents to the hypocausts at *p*, and in the work about the drain at *s*. In the inside they were covered with a thick layer of mortar, which was painted in fresco, and which, where it remains, either on the lower part of the walls or in pieces scattered about, has preserved its colours remarkably fresh. The ornamentation in those yet found is very simple, but tasteful. One piece of cement from the wall contained three or four large letters of an inscription. In the interior of one of the rooms immediately to the south of the Old Wall, the wall, instead of being painted, was *tessellated*, we think an ornamentation of a unique character, at least as far as this country is concerned. A fragment of this wall is represented in the accompanying cut ; the tessellæ, which are of a uniform size, one-half by three-fifths of an inch, are set in the cement, alternately of a dark and light-coloured stone. The outside of the houses appear, in some cases at least, to have been likewise painted in fresco. Thus the exterior of the semicircular end of the hypocaust *m* was plastered over and painted red, with stripes of yellow. A few roof-tiles were found scattered about ; but the houses appear to have been more generally roofed with rather thick slabs of micaceous slate, which appears to have been brought from Wales. Quantities of these slates are found scattered about ; they are sometimes lozenge-shaped, but more frequently the side-angles of the lozenge are broken off, so as to form an elongated hexagon. The most remarkable article connected with the structure of the houses was the window-glass, which was found in considerable quantity, and appears to have been of fine quality, though its transparency is now destroyed by the iridescence. It was found in some instances in rather large pieces, its uniform thickness exceeding  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch.

A great quantity of iron has been found in the progress of the excavations at Wroxeter, and in general it is better preserved than usual. It consisted, in a great measure, of clamps, large nails, rivets, and other articles, which appear to have been used in fixing the woodwork, etc., of the buildings. Of these the most numerous is the T-shaped clamp, the third figure in the annexed cut, which is found rather commonly in Roman buildings, sometimes arranged at



equal distances along the wall, just above the level of the floor. From the discoveries of the Abbé Cochet in Normandy, it would appear that they were used to hold to the wall the flue-tiles of the hypocausts. The object represented in the middle figure of the cut was also found in some numbers, of exactly uniform shape and size, but it is not easy to guess at its use. The curious object which forms the first figure in this cut is also of iron, and was found in the excavations to the north of the Old Wall. It is about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, and the one end, formed like the ferules of the old spear-heads, was evidently intended to be fitted on a shaft, so that it appears to have belonged to some sort of a ceremonial staff—a trident. In the same part of the excavations was also found a portion of a very strong iron chain, and the head of an axe.

The most abundant of all the metals found hitherto in these excavations, at least after iron, is lead; an unusual circumstance in Roman sites, but probably to be explained by the proximity of Uriconium to the extensive lead-mines on the Welsh borders. Among various objects composed of lead, it may be sufficient to mention a little bowl or cup, about 3 inches in diameter, and of elegant form, though devoid of ornament; it is represented in our cut.

Pottery has, as usual, been found in great quantities, including the red ware commonly called Samian, the ware from the potteries at Caistor (*Durobrivæ*) and Upchurch, and nearly all the other varieties usually met with in Roman sites in this island. But a pottery found in great abundance at Wroxeter is almost new to the antiquary: it is white, and of a porous texture, and was probably made of some one of the clays of the Severn valley. It has been conjectured that the kilns which produced this pottery were situated somewhere in the neighbourhood of Broseley. The articles made of this ware were principally jugs, the elegant and usual form of which is represented in the upper figure of our cut, and mortaria, or bowls for pounding and bruising in the operations of cookery. A fragment of one of the latter is represented in the lower figure in the cut, and shows the manner in which the surface internally was set with small granular pieces of silex, to assist in the process of trituration. Among other fragments of pottery found here is a boldly executed mask of a female face, which has no doubt formed the ornamental mouthpiece of a large amphora. One or two fragments of very choice glass vessels have also been dug up.

Objects of a more miscellaneous character, in a great variety of materials, are also numerous—such as ladies' hair-pins, in bronze, bone, and wood, fibulæ for attaching the dress, styli for writing on tablets, knives, rings, buttons, etc., even to Roman pins and needles. Of the coins, two only of those yet found are of silver: the oldest a coin of Galba, the others being all of copper. Quantities of bones of quadrupeds and birds have been found, with oyster-shells, and even

some nutshells, from which we may form a notion of the diet of the inhabitants of the Roman city. Among these were remarked numerous tusks and toe-hoofs of wild boars and horns of stags, the latter in some instances of very large dimensions. Some of the stags' horns had been cut and sawed, probably in order to turn them to some useful purpose.

The mention of bones leads us to one of the most remarkable circumstances connected with these excavations. It has often struck us that, as the buildings of the Romans among which the antiquary digs were evidently destroyed by fire, and part of their inhabitants no doubt slaughtered, by the invaders, we might expect to find the bones of human beings among the ruins: yet this is very rarely the case. Perhaps this may be partly explained by the circumstance that most of the sites hitherto explored have been those of villas or country mansions, which were doubtless abandoned by their inhabitants before they were invaded by the enemy. At Wroxeter, so long as the labours of the excavators were confined to the extensive (public?) buildings to the north of the Old Wall (*aa* in the plan), they met with no bones which could be identified as human; but when they crossed this wall, and came among the domestic buildings to the south of it, the case was entirely changed. In a very short time they gathered up human bones belonging to at least three or four individuals; and in what appeared to be the corner of a yard (at the spot marked *n* in our plan), was found the skull of a very young child. Other scattered bones were subsequently met with, and, at last, when the smallest of the hypocausts (*r*) was cleared, three skeletons were found in it, one of which appeared to have been seated or crouching in a corner, and the other two lying extended by the side of the wall; it appeared from the skull and jaw of the skeleton in the corner that it had belonged to a very old man, while at least one of the other two, if not both, seemed from similar evidence to have been females. At a very short distance from the skeleton of the old man lay in a little heap a hundred and thirty-two small copper coins, most of them of the different types of the emperors of the Constantine family, and among them small iron nails and remains of decayed wood, which showed that they must have been inclosed in a small wooden coffer. We may thus safely conclude that these three individuals, in the midst of the massacre of the inhabitants of Uriconium, had sought concealment by creeping into the hypocaust, a place where, as it was rather a low hypocaust, they were not likely to be followed, and there the old man had tried to secure the money which was within his reach. Perhaps they had been suffocated in their place of refuge, or the burning buildings may have fallen in and blocked up their passage out. It places in a lively manner before our imagination the sufferings of the inhabitants of the doomed city when it fell before the barbarians; and it is the first instance which has occurred in which we



have the opportunity of ascertaining what were the coins which a man carried about him as the current money in this island at this obscure period of history. These coins have been placed in the hands of Mr. Roach Smith, who has made a report upon them to the Numismatic Society. Other human remains have been since found, and among them those of another child.

The various objects above mentioned or alluded to have been deposited, according to the terms of the resolution of the Shropshire Society, in the Society's Museum at Shrewsbury; and if, as there is every reason to expect, the excavations are continued with the same success, the Wroxeter Museum will become eventually one of the most interesting and important in this island; the more so because, like the museum at Naples, gathered from the ruins of Pompeii, it will be restricted to one period of our history. To the objects dug up by the men employed by the committee of investigation will be added others that can be purchased from those who have gathered them in previous times. Many of these have been already brought into the Museum, and others will shortly follow them. Among these are several neat bronzes; but one of the most interesting of them is a stamp of a Roman oculist, engraved on a small round stone, and represented in the annexed cut, the size of the original. The inscription may be read without any difficulty as follows: *Tiberii Claudii Medici Dialibanum AD OMNE VITium Oculorum EX ovo*, i.e., "The dialibanum of Tiberius Claudius, the physician, for all complaints of the eyes, to be used with egg." The *dialibanum*, or *dialebanum*, was a collyrium, or salve for the eyes, which in a stamp of this description found at Cirencester is directed similarly to be used *EX ov*, where we have a letter more of this word. This phrase occurs also on similar stamps found in France and Germany. We learn from the ancient writers that several of the collyria when used were mixed up with the white of egg.

This stamp makes us acquainted with a Roman physician resident in Uriconium.\* We learn the names of others of its citizens from inscribed sepulchral monuments which have been from time to time accidentally turned up in the extensive cemetery outside the town walls, which it is to be expected will richly reward some of the future labours of the excavators. One of these commemorates a soldier of the twentieth legion, named Caius Marinius, Secundus

\* This medicine stamp, the use of which was no doubt to impress the names of the medicine and of its maker on the pot, box, or packet, containing it, was found by a farmer in 1808, and was engraved in the *Gentleman's Magazine* at that time from so incorrect a copy, that it could not be satisfactorily interpreted. It was [1810, *Part I.*, p. 617] supposed to have been subsequently lost, and was only recovered by accident since the excavations were commenced in the present year. It will be observed that a small space is filled up by a branch before the second and third lines, and by a leaf-ornament at the end of the fourth. The  $\Delta$  in the fourth line is a mere expletive to fill up a space.



Pollentius, who was also a pensioner of the first legion ; another, a soldier of the fourteenth legion, named Marcus Petronius ; and a third, a soldier of the cohort of the Thracians, named Tiberius Claudius Terentius, whose name seems to have rather a curious relationship to that of the physician. Another of these monumental stones is dedicated to a lady named Antonia Gemalla, by Diadumenus, whom we may suppose to have been of Greek extraction ; and a triple tablet commemorates a citizen of Uriconium named Deuccus, who held the office of *curator agrorum*, his wife named Placida, and probably a son or daughter, but the inscription of the third column is defaced. While speaking of inscriptions we must also state that, besides the formal wall inscription already mentioned, of which two or three letters were preserved on a piece of the plaster, and which no doubt would have given us some insight into the character of these buildings, if it had been preserved, the surface of the painted plaster of the southern face of the southern wall of the passage (*s* on the plan), was, when first discovered, covered with a straggling inscription traced into the mortar with some sharp-pointed instrument, like similar inscriptions found on the walls of houses at Pompeii ; but, unfortunately, before this Wroxeter inscription could be properly examined, some meddling visitors broke away a great part of it in trying the strength of the mortar, and the tenant having immediately afterwards, in a fit of opposition to the excavations, shut up the place against the excavation committee, the weather, and other causes, have so much deteriorated the rest, that it is not now possible to ascertain its original character.

During the temporary interruption of the excavations, at the Old Wall, just alluded to, the men have been employed on another spot at the southern extremity of the ancient city, inclosed in our map by a dotted line to indicate apparently that it was doubtful if it were outside or within the true town wall. This ground is very uneven, rising into rather high mounds, the top of the highest of which has been trenched, and the walls of a square building of some kind, perhaps a tower, partly uncovered. Enough, however, has not yet been done to make us fully acquainted with its character. Among the objects found at this place are a bearded head of a statue in stone, which, from a horn which has escaped mutilation, has been supposed to have been a statue of the god Pan, though it has since been suggested that it may belong to the statue of a river god, intended to represent the Severn ; and a mould for casting Roman coins, made of clay, and having still the impress of a coin of Julia Domna, the wife of the Emperor Severus. Curiously enough, a silver coin of this Empress was found in the excavations near the Old Wall, which fits the impress exactly. This method of multiplying the imperial coinage by casts seems to have been very common in these distant provinces, and was perhaps exercised by the imperial or municipal officers. The

discovery of this mould would seem to show that Uriconium enjoyed the privilege, if it were one.

[1859, *Part I.*, p. 625.]

The last few days have thrown considerable light on the character of the buildings which are at present the site of the excavations in the Roman city of Uriconium. A continuous outer wall has been traced, bordering what was evidently the Roman street (now the Watling Street road), and facing the west to a distance of about 80 feet southwards, where another wall was found running eastward, at right angles from it. Within these walls was a large interior court, with a fine brick herring-bone pavement, like that in the building first laid open to the north of the old wall. The sides of this court towards the street appear to have been occupied by rooms of small dimensions, which perhaps served for shops or offices. In one of them, the floor of which is about 10 feet from the present level of the ground, was found a quantity of unused charcoal, as though it had been a charcoal dépôt either for sale or for the use of the more important buildings to the east. One or two weights, with numbers upon them, and various other objects, have been found in these small rooms. Among other things found in this part of the excavations are one or two nice finger-rings, and human remains have again been met with. At the north-western corner of the court there is a wide opening in the western wall, approached from the street by an inclined plane formed of several large flagstones, as though to allow carriages to enter the court, the level of which is higher than that of the street. A little further south there is another but smaller entrance through the same wall, approached by stone steps. The stones of both are considerably worn by use. The back or eastern side of the court appears to have been occupied by the better apartments of a very important mansion, running southward from the hypocausts already opened, and these will now be immediately uncovered, and we may hope for interesting results. It may be remarked that traces of the use of mineral coal in the houses of Uriconium have already been met with. . . .

[1859, *Part II.*, pp. 219-225.]

Since our account of these excavations four months ago, considerable progress has been made, attended with various interesting discoveries. . . .

The large room with a hypocaust to the south, and the rooms adjoining it eastwardly, not only remain open, but a series of other rooms and passages have been uncovered in an eastward line to an extent of upwards of 150 feet. The plate we give this month represents the entrance to the first hypocaust with the three steps leading to it, all which have been described in our former article. The cut



annexed represents these same steps as seen from the small room with the herring-bone pavement to the east, and shows also the exterior of the semicircular end of the large room. The pavement alluded to, only about 12 feet square, has been entirely uncovered, and is found to open on its eastern side into another room with a hypocaust, which has now been cleared. It was in this last-mentioned hypocaust that the excavators found the skeletons of an old man, and what appeared to have been two women; the women lay by the side of the northern wall, and the old man had been crouched in the north-western corner, with his coffer of money lying on the ground near him. This money (132 pieces) has been examined by Mr. C. Roach Smith, and proves to be chiefly coins of the Constantine family, with a few of the later copies of the Roman coins which belonged to the period immediately preceding the Saxon invasion, so that they leave no doubt of the time at which Uriconium was destroyed. Beyond this room, still eastward, was another, also with a hypocaust, which is partly formed of flues, instead of rows of columns. The north-eastern corner touches the south-western corner of the series of vaulted apartments, of which the old wall formed the northern side, and which will in the sequel be more carefully explored. Adjoining this hypocaust to the east, and the southern wall of the rooms just mentioned to the north, is another room with a hypocaust, which has been recently opened, and in which again two human skeletons were found, apparently those of young persons. It would appear thus, that when the Roman city was sacked, and its inhabitants massacred, the women, in their fright, sought everywhere an asylum in the hypocausts, and there they no doubt perished from the effects of the conflagration. Beyond this room ran a series of passages, with the apartments adjoining the old wall to the north, and other rooms with hypocausts to the south. In the first of these passages occurs the square pit, resembling a cesspool, with a drain running through it, mentioned in our former account of these discoveries, and of which, as it appeared when first opened, the adjoined sketch (fig. 2), taken from the south-west, will give a very good notion. The masonry here is remarkably good, with a profusion of the large flat Roman tiles. Nothing has yet been discovered to throw any light on the object of this drain. It was on one of the walls of these passages that some one of the inhabitants of Uriconium had scratched with a pointed instrument, such as a stylus, an inscription on the plaster, similar to the inscriptions at Pompeii, which excited considerable interest. Unfortunately, before it had been seen by anybody but the workmen, some very indiscreet visitors broke the plaster off with their walking-sticks, apparently for the mere purpose of trying its hardness, and immediately afterwards the tenant of the farm excluded the excavators from the field. A few letters remained which showed merely that the inscription had been written in Latin, but it underwent further dilapi-



dations during the exclusion of the excavators ; and when they again obtained possession of this site of their labours, nothing more remained than the few scratches shown in our woodcut (fig. 3). Even these few scratches have now disappeared.

Proceeding along these passages eastwardly, we come at length to a hypocaust which is rather deeper than the others, and which presents more than one peculiarity. To the west it had a wide opening to the passages which have led us to it, and on the opposite side towards the east was a similarly wide opening into a square room with a well-preserved herring-bone pavement, resembling much the similar room mentioned before. Hitherto, fewer of the flue-tiles used to convey the heat up the walls had been found than might have been expected, but the face of the northern wall of the room just described, which is its only wall yet uncovered, and which remains to a height of 9 or 10 feet, is completely covered with the remains and marks of these flue-tiles, as though the room had been intended to be very much heated, perhaps a sweating-room. The eastern side of this room appears to have been the eastern boundary-wall of the extensive mass of buildings to which it belonged, and which ran at right angles to the eastern end of the old wall. The square room with the herring-bone pavement just mentioned projected eastwardly beyond this wall, and forms the extremity in this direction of the ground now in the possession of the excavation committee.

On the return of the excavators to their labours, after their unfriendly exclusion, they began by tracing the front of the line of buildings bordering on the modern Watling Street road, and no doubt forming the side of one of the principal streets of the Roman city. They opened the ground at the distance of nearly 100 feet from the line of the old wall, and found, as was expected, a wall which lay nearly in the same line as that which formed the western side of the extensive building to the north of the old wall, now covered up. In this wall two openings, or gateways, were found, the one to the north about 12 feet wide, the other, at some distance to the south of it, 5 feet wide. The first of these was approached by an inclined plane, formed of three immense squared stones, as though it had been intended to be approached by horses and carriages; the other, which was approached by steps very much worn by the feet, was evidently intended for people on foot. Both led into the same large court, paved with the small bricks laid in herring-bone fashion, between 40 and 50 feet square. The conjecture as to the use of the wider entrance seems to be confirmed by the circumstance that a portion of an iron horse-shoe was found on that side of the court, and that the pavement had been there much damaged and mended in Roman times. The central part of this court has not yet been explored. Besides a variety of other objects, two portions of very large and handsome capitals have been found in this court,

which would lead us to suppose that the buildings here displayed great architectural decoration.

Nevertheless, the two sides on the north and south are found to have been bordered by small square rooms, four on each side, the objects of which can have offered nothing of grandeur or dignity. One only, the room at the north-western corner, has been cleared out to the bottom, which was found at the depth of full 10 feet, and had a low transverse wall of division. It appeared to have been a dépôt of charcoal and coals, and traces of mineral coal were met with. Two other rooms, opposite each other on different sides of the courts, were filled with bones and horns of all kinds of animals, and, as some of these had been cut and sawed, it has been conjectured that they were magazines belonging to people who manufactured the numerous implements made of bone which are found so abundantly in the excavations. The supposition that these square rooms may have been shops or warehouses of tradesmen or manufacturers, receives some support from the discovery of several weights scattered about, as though the various articles they contained had been served out in measured quantities. Among other objects found in this part of the excavations was a handle several inches long, perhaps of some culinary vessel, made of block tin, a very unusual metal to find among Roman remains: a fragment of the vessel to which it had been attached remains with it.

At the back of this court was what appeared to be one long and rather narrow inclosure, which was conjectured at first to be a sort of cloister, or crypto-porticus. It has since, however, been cleared out, and is found to be separated into five compartments by walls running about half of the breadth. These compartments were open to a passage running along the eastern side, and suggest the notion of their having been shops or stalls. In one of them was found a small round iron coffer, supported on three feet, and having a lid on, but so corroded with rust as to be hermetically sealed. A hole was, however, broken in it by the labourer's pick, which enables us just to discover in the interior a mass of fine wood decayed, and some implement of metal in the middle. On the eastern side of the passage the excavators found a doorway, from which a trench has been dug directly eastward. After proceeding about 12 feet, the men came to a transverse wall which runs parallel to the back wall of the square court, and on the other side of it they came to a raised pavement of smoothed cement, which extended 4 or 5 feet, and then suddenly sunk to a floor of large flagstones, at a depth of upwards of 4 feet from the floor of cement. From some circumstances connected with it, there seems reason for supposing that this floor of flags was the bottom of a reservoir of water, into which broken pottery and other such objects had been thrown. Beyond this supposed reservoir, the trench ran again along a floor of cement, until it came to the outer



wall of a building, which has been traced each way to some distance, but nothing has yet been discovered to throw any light upon its object. On the other side of this wall we again find a cement floor, and at a short distance to the eastward, at a depth of 3 feet from this floor, there is another floor, about 10 feet wide by 30 feet long, formed of large flat Roman tiles, each 18 inches long by 12 inches in breadth. When first opened, the middle of this pavement was broken and indented in such a manner as to lead to the supposition that it was hollow underneath; but on excavating, this was found not to be the case. The cement floor was continued on the other side of it, until it is bounded by the wall running at right angles to the eastern end of the old wall, which has already been spoken of as apparently the eastern boundary of these buildings. It has been traced continuously from the spot where this trench reached it to the hypocaust and small room with herring-bone pavement.

The excavations at this latter spot are deeper than in the other parts of this building, chiefly for two reasons: the earth appears to have accumulated more here than in the lower part of the field, and the floors appear to have been originally at a lower level. This renders the labours of the excavator much greater; but on the other hand we find the remains of walls to a much greater elevation, and in a condition which shows us much more distinctly their original design. The real object of this mass of buildings is still very uncertain: it was at first believed to be a great mansion, but there are circumstances which seem to militate against this view. In the first place, such a mansion as this can hardly have been without its mosaic pavements, of which no traces have yet been found. On the contrary, the floors above the hypocausts appear everywhere, even in the large hypocausts first opened, to have been the mere smoothed surfaces of cement, which may be supposed to indicate that they were designed for some public purposes. Perhaps they were public baths and wash-houses. A further exploration of the remains in the north-eastern corner will probably throw some light on this question. The square courtyard to the south-west presents, on the whole, more of a domestic character in its arrangements. The southern wall of this court has been traced to some distance, and appears to have been the boundary-wall of this building in that direction. Perhaps an alley separated it from other buildings which ran to the south along the side of what is now the Watling Street road; these, however, have not yet been examined.

As may be supposed, the continued excavations have added greatly to the treasures of the museum in Shrewsbury. Many coins have been found, but in most cases they are much worn, and few of them are of any interest. Personal ornaments are also becoming more numerous. Above twenty specimens of ladies' hair-pins have now been collected, and we make a selection of them in the accompany-



ing cut (fig. 6). They are here drawn about half the size of the originals ; they were used for holding together the knot into which the Roman ladies rolled up their hair behind ; and it will be remarked that they usually swell out in the middle and diminish again towards the head, no doubt to prevent the pins from slipping out of the knot of hair. A number of rings, bracelets, beads, fibulæ, buckles, and buttons, have also been found and deposited in the museum, and the prevalence of enamel in the ornamentation of these objects is remarkable. Among the objects connected with the toilette, we must not forget two combs of bone, which are represented in our cut (fig. 7), the size of the original. The larger comb is only a fragment, but the smaller one is complete with the exception of the want of some of its teeth, and its form is by no means devoid of elegance. Among the miscellaneous articles dug up are several keys, a hinge, styli for writing on waxen tablets, whetstones, several knives, a ladle, and other objects which seem to have served for culinary purposes. Another sort of Romano-Salopian pottery has been found, of a red colour, but of a shade not common among the ordinary Roman wares, and evidently made of one of the clays of the Severn valley. It is of finer texture than the white ware, but, like it, is used extensively for jug-formed vessels. Round bowls are also found of this ware, with the bottoms and the sides perforated with a multitude of small holes, intended evidently to serve the purpose of colanders ; a portion of one of these is shown in our woodcut (No. 8).

It will be seen, from the above description, that a very extensive mass of buried Roman buildings has now been uncovered and exposed to view. They are all contained in a rectangular inclosure, which is protected by the hedge of the Watling Street road. . . .

[1862, *Part I.*, p. 192.]

The work of excavation on the site of Uriconium is progressing satisfactorily, and the men employed for this purpose are now investigating the mounds and trenches supposed to indicate the bounds of the ancient city. It has long been a question among archæologists whether there ever was a stone defence as well as earthworks around the city, and hitherto attempts to discover the walls have been unavailing. Guided, however, by a large figured stone which has been from time immemorial in a rill of water which bounds the glebe land, the men cut a trench directly across the field now a part of the vicar's glebe, and still called "Old Walls," and here they found actual stone wall exactly where the old Ordnance map places the walls. From about 8 inches to 18 inches below the turf they have disclosed a bed of rough, unhewn stone set in clay, and of no great thickness, and having the appearance of very hasty work. It is exactly 6 feet wide, and has been uncovered for a distance of 34 yards, but it can be

traced underground with the crowbar above one hundred more in the adjoining fields. The stone wall is not on the top of the ridges, but on the outer slope of one ridge, giving a tract of high ground immediately within the wall. These remains are believed to be only the foundations of the wall, the superstructure having been carried away. It is proposed to try some other part of the boundary in the hope of discovering some of the upper part of the wall.

In the opinion of Mr. Thomas Wright, who has charge of the excavations, the form and extent of the walls prove that they cannot be earlier than the period of intestine war that immediately preceded the separation of Britain from the Roman empire.

[1862, *Part II.*, p. 677.]

During the last month the operations at Wroxeter have been recommenced. Some men have been employed to trench the field which borders the old Watling Street road, and where the ancient town wall and city gate are alleged to have been situated. The same sort of foundation was observed here as in the Glebe and another part of the boundary of the old town, showing where the wall had been, but there were no traces of the city gateway. All that was found was a bank of clay, on the top of which were placed boulder-stones set in clay without mortar. Several sepulchral interments have been met with of a character similar to those usually found in Roman cemeteries. In some of them objects of particular interest were found, with urns and other earthen vessels; as, for instance, the fragments of a circular mirror in the bright, shining, mixed metal commonly known as "speculum" metal; and what appears to be a surgeon's lancet, contrived in a very ingenious manner. The point for penetrating the flesh is of steel, not unlike that in use at the present day. It is surmounted by a guard, to hinder it from cutting too deeply, and above this is the handle, which is bow-shaped and of bronze.

[1868, *Part I.*, p. 665.]

A recent visit to Wroxeter has, more than ever, convinced me of the importance of the excavations made there, which have become suspended from want of funds.

The farther portion of the remains now laid open (as viewed at the entrance from the modern road, which seems to cover an ancient *via*), is flanked by the high massive wall, long supposed, erroneously, to be part of the circumvallation of the ancient city; but which, in the reality, is an exterior wall of a spacious and noble building, of numerous rooms, the original level of which the eye, on a nearer approach, detects from the tessellated flooring yet remaining in one of the smaller apartments. These rooms were well supplied with hypocausts, the admirable arrangements of which can be well understood in consequence of the destruction of the floors, which admits of the

mode of heating being clearly seen, even to the skilful spreading of the heated air up the walls of the rooms, by hollow square tiles through which also the smoke escaped. The advantage thus gained in understanding the means taken by the Roman builders to counteract the trying rigours of our northern climate, is purchased by the sacrifice of the tessellated pavements with which these heated rooms were floored. That they were of a superior kind may be inferred from the examples discovered at Wroxeter in past times; and also from a very remarkable specimen of mosaic work yet remaining upon one of the walls, an indication of luxury of which, I am not aware, we have any other example in this country. The examination of these rooms requires time and attention; especially as some ancient restorations and adaptations will have to be studied before they can be well understood. The buildings, which are near to and run parallel with the modern road, are of a very different kind. These, Mr. Wright considers, apparently with good reason, to have been workshops and a market-place. The foundations and parts of the walls show they were strongly constructed, the roofs being supported partly by massive columns. [See Note 19.]

C. ROACH SMITH.

## Somersetshire.

### BATH.

[1755, *p.* 376.]

A most valuable piece of antiquity was discovered here. Under the foundation of the abbey house, now taken down, in order to be rebuilt by the Duke of Kingston, the workmen discovered the foundations of more ancient buildings, and fell upon some cavities, which gradually led to further discoveries. There are now fairly laid open the foundations and remains of very august Roman baths and sudatories, constructed upon their elegant plans, with floors suspended upon square brick pillars, and surrounded with tubulated bricks, for the equal conveyance of heating and vapour. Their dimensions are very large, but not yet fully laid open, and some curious parts of their structure are not yet explained.

[1791, *Part I.*, *p.* 103.]

The improvements now carrying on at Bath, in order to render the communication with the lower town more commodious, have been the means of discovering the remains of a temple, probably the most magnificent building which Bath, the *Aquæ Solis* of the Romans, had then to boast of.

On the south side of Stall Street, about 12 feet under the surface, was found a colossal head encircled in a civic wreath, and another exterior ornament forming a medallion, supported by a figure of



Victory on one side, and, on the other, manifestly the decoration of a pediment. Part of the shaft of a fluted column, a pilaster, and a capital, frieze and cornice of the Corinthian order finely executed, were likewise found in the same place, and were undoubtedly part of the same building. These fragments, of which the head is supposed to represent the sun, to which the temple was most probably dedicated, and part of the figure of Victory treading upon a sphere, are sufficient *data* from whence a drawing of the whole may be made out ; and I know it will be a pleasure to you, Mr. Urban, to announce to your antiquarian readers that Mr. Baldwin, the city architect, has taken accurate drawings of these antiquities, and intends to publish an account, with proper illustrations.

An altar, with the following inscription, was found at the same time and place : [Huebner, p. 26]

DEAE SVL  
PRO SALVTE ET  
INCOLVMITA  
TE MAR AVFID  
MAXIMI LEG  
VI VIC  
AVFIDIVS EV  
TVC. HES. LEB  
V. S. L. M.

Yours, etc. ADJUTOR.

[1815, *Part I.*, p. 559.]

The curiosity of antiquaries has been very much excited by the discovery of many Roman remains, lately turned up by the labourers employed in erecting a malt-house on the premises of Messrs. Sainsbury and Acres, in Walcot Street, Bath. They consist of fragments of Roman British pottery ; of various descriptions of differently coloured glass vessels ; of domestic and culinary earthenware utensils ; together with several coins ; a tintinnabulum, or little bell ; a Roman libra, or pound weight ; some Roman nails, and other articles. Fortunately for the admirers of such vestiges of classical antiquity, they have been collected together by Mr. John Cranch, of Queen Street. There can be little doubt, from the character of these remains (all of which relate to household ornament or convenience), from the foundations of walls which have exhibited themselves, and the traces of a tessellated pavement discovered on the spot, that a Roman villa once covered the site of the intended malt-house ; a residence (as may be inferred from the beauty of the fragment) characterized by the refinements of luxury and the elegancies of taste.

[1827, *Part I.*, p. 392.]

I wish to be permitted to put on record, in your pages, a concise view of the evidence which our inscriptions present to the existence of a local Deity worshipped at this place, named SVL, and from

whom, rather than from SOL, the name of AQVAE SOLIS, by which Bath is known in the Itineraries, is in all probability derived.

1. In the first place, there are two altars, both erected *pro salute et in columitate Marci Aufidii Maximi*, dedicated Deæ Suli. [Huebner, p. 26.] In a published engraving of one of these altars, the word Suli appears Sulin. But this is an error. There is no sign of anything after Suli, nor any appearance of any other letter having ever appeared there.

2. A sepulchral stone, found in 1795, commemorates Caius Calpurnius receptus sacerdos Deæ Sulis [Huebner, p. 27], a recognised priest of the goddess Sul. He died at the age of seventy-five, and it was placed to his memory by Calpurnia Trifosa Threpte, his wife.

3. It appears that this British goddess Sul became united with Minerva, forming a hybrid Divinity, who appears as Sulminerva in two of our inscriptions. They are both on votive altars: in the first of which she appears alone: Deæ Suliminervæ Sulinus Maturi Filius V. S. L. M. [Huebner, p. 26.] The other is inscribed Deæ Suli Min. et Numin. Augg., and was erected by C. Curiatius Saturninus. [Huebner, p. 26.]

4. There is the fragment of an inscription which formerly appeared in the front of some edifice—

C PROTACI . . . . .  
DEAE SVLIS M . . . . .

which Mr. Lysons reads as indicating that C. Protacius restored some temple which was sacred to the Sul Minerva. [Huebner, p. 25.]

5. Lastly, there is an altar dedicated to the Sulevæ: Sulevis Sulinus Scultor Bruceti filius sacrum F. L. M. [Huebner, p. 25.] Then Suleve may be presumed to be the nymph, and the vicinity of those springs peculiarly placed under the presidency of Sul.

It may be noticed that the name of a hill in the neighbourhood, called Little Salisbury, appears to be connected etymologically with this British Divinity.

I shall only add that the numerous altars and inscriptions, the sculptures, and especially the fine remains of the portico of the Temple of Minerva, which have been preserved for many years with a laudable care by the Corporation of this city in a depository appropriated to the purpose, have lately been removed to the Literary and Scientific Institution. The more remarkable of these remains may now be seen in the vestibule and passages of that edifice, and the rest in a room below.

JOSEPH HUNTER.

[1843, *Part I.*, p. 521.]

Workmen employed for improving the drainage in the neighbourhood of Bath Abbey have discovered in the Orange Grove, about 8

feet below the surface, several interesting remains of Roman sepulture—especially a stone coffin of unusual form, but of so crumbling a material that it could not be removed entire: it was therefore covered up, with the skeleton it contained. Various fragments of pottery and ornamental glazed tiles were also found; but these were mediæval. Some of the fragments of vases found in the vicinity of the coffin are such as have usually been denominated British. One of the specimens is remarkable, having numerous minute chippings of quartz and garnets imbedded in it. A few models of tessellated pavement have also been discovered formed of the blue and white lias, like the more perfect floors of the baths discovered four years ago at Twerton. Besides human bones have been found those of the horse, the stag, and other domestic animals. The remains are deposited for public inspection in Mr. Empson's Museum, on the Walks.

[1852, *Part II.*, p. 407.]

On the 10th Sept., while workmen were excavating the road at the top of Russell Street, Bath, for the purpose of enlarging the sewer, they discovered four stone coffins, with the heads lying to the north-east. One, the smallest, had no lid; the others were covered. They were disposed in pairs; the upper ones nearly parallel, side by side, about 2 feet apart; the lower pair about a yard distant. Lying immediately above these was a skeleton. In the first coffin was found a skeleton of large size; in the next two skulls, with various bones; the small coffin contained no skull, but loose bones. One of the coffins was preserved untouched, and afterwards examined by Dr. Falconer, Messrs. Gore, Bagshawe, and E. Hunt. It was covered with a regularly-adjusted lid, not with a plain slab, as was the case with the others, being bevelled off at the foot to allow the cover to fit more closely; the upper end of the lid seemed to have been slightly lifted up. The coffin was full of a soft clayey earth, with two human vertebræ lying on it. The earth being removed, a perfect skeleton, supposed to be that of a female, was found: it was lying on its left side, with the right arm crossing the breast, the left arm extended down the side. The remaining contents of the coffin were part of an infant's jaw, a metal pin, nearly 2 inches in length but much corroded, together with the head of a smaller one, portions of the jaws of two small animals, and a considerable quantity of a peculiar bituminous substance, which left a greasy purple stain when rubbed between the fingers. In the neighbourhood of the coffin were discovered some fragments of an earthen vessel, a coin of Constantine, several pieces of glass of a beautiful purple green hue, with various bones of graminivorous animals.

As far as can be made out by examination of the human bones, it is evident that they form part of eight skeletons, three being those of



children of about the ages of two, six, and ten or twelve; the remaining five skeletons were those of adults.

On the 15th, a fifth coffin was discovered. It was found in a line with those already described. It contains the perfect skeleton of, apparently, a larger body than any of those found in the other coffins, and a small urn of dark pottery, which was placed on the right side of the skeleton, near the ribs. The urn, which is quite perfect, with the exception of being very slightly chipped on the rim, is now in the possession of Mr. Treasure, the contractor. The contents of the urn, described by the workmen as being yellowish earth, were unfortunately shaken out by them, so that it cannot be ascertained what they were. The coffin contained also a small quantity of earth, but not sufficient to prevent the skeleton from being completely seen on the removal of the cover, which is in two or three pieces. In addition to the above-mentioned urn, some interesting fragments of Roman pottery continue to be found at the excavations.

Yesterday evening a sixth stone coffin was discovered, containing the skeleton of two children, about eight or nine years of age.—*Bath Chronicle*, Sept. 16.

[1862, *Part II.*, p. 209.]

In preparing the ground for the site of the addition to the Mineral Water Hospital in this city, many Roman remains were discovered, and portions of a tessellated pavement of plain pattern, much earthenware of a coarse kind, and coins of the Lower Empire. But amongst these a fragment of an inscription on a marble slab deserves particular attention. There can be no doubt about its authenticity, as the party who picked it up, and who afterwards united the broken portions, is well known to me. The letters are as follows, and particularly well cut.

There can be little doubt that after the word DEAE came SVLI or SVLIMINERVÆ. The fragment of the letter (s) is sufficiently indicated, and as we have four altars found in Bath dedicated to this tutelary goddess, as well as a tomb to her priest, there can be little hesitation about the reading in the present instance.

In the second line we have the two first names of the dedicator clearly indicated, TI[BERIVS] CL[AVDIVS], the triangular stop after each being clearly cut; and we have the commencement of the cognomen (T), which may be supplied by any of the Roman names beginning with that letter. The third line commences with the letters SOLLEN, the last letter being broken away, but sufficient remaining to leave no doubt what letter it was; and this word may be SOLLENNES, with reference probably to the vows paid to the goddess, and which the tablet commemorated. The letters in the fourth line, which are so far broken as to render conjecture very insecure, are cut much smaller than the others. It is to be regretted that no more of this

inscription was to be found, but every care was taken at the time to recover any other fragment that might be brought to light. The form of the letters and the clearness of the cutting indicate an early period, and the fact of the tablet being marble helps to authenticate other marble tablets said to have been found in England, but the authenticity of which has been disputed in consequence of marble inscriptions having been seldom, if ever, found.

H. M. SCARTH.

#### FARLEY CASTLE.

[1822, *Part II.*, p. 365.]

The remains of a Roman villa, with a beautifully tessellated pavement, have recently been discovered between Farley Castle and Iford, County Somerset. Indeed, the existence of the remains has been known for a considerable time by persons in the neighbourhood—a record is given, in the “History of Somersetshire,” of some pavement of the above description having been sent from this place to the Museum at Oxford in 1628—but for many years they have lain unmolested. Several small coins have been found, bearing the name of Tetricus, together with some other curiosities, which are now in the possession of the Rev. Mr. Richardson, Rector of Farley.

#### LITTLETON.

[1827, *Part II.*, pp. 113, 114.]

I now send you the ground-plan and description of a Roman villa lately discovered and opened at Littleton, near Somerton, in the County of Somerset.

These relics of Roman habitation are generally found at a short distance from some great Roman way, as at Bignor, in Sussex; at Thruxton and Bramdean, in Hants; at Frampton and Halstock, in Dorset; and this villa adjoins a Roman road which led from Ilchester (Iscales) to Somerton, Street, and probably to Glastonbury and Wells.

The villa at Littleton is situated at a short distance on the left of the road leading through Street to Glastonbury, in a level meadow, surrounded by hills, and having a very fine spring of water very near to it.

On referring to the ground-plan (see Plate II.), you will perceive that the remains hitherto discovered extend to above 150 feet in a long and parallel line.

The front faces the south, where there appears to have been a porch leading through a long passage to an entrance-hall, No. 1, which was paved with irregular flag-stones. On the left of this hall we find two small rooms, the one a sudatory, and the other, adjoining it, probably a dressing-room, attached to the bath, No. 2. Next to these was an apartment in which was a tessellated pavement, representing a male

figure in its centre, supposed to be a Bacchus, surrounded by an arabesque border of foliage, No. 3. Next to it was a large hypocaust, No. 4, and there are foundations of walls extending still further in this direction west, which have not as yet been explored.

At the south-east corner of the entrance-hall, No. 1, there are flues, and the adjoining apartment, No. 5, is sunk deeper in the ground than any of the others, and supposed to have been a bath.

No. 6, adjoining, is the largest apartment, measuring 20 feet in length and about 16 in breadth. The pavement was surrounded by an *à la Grecque* border, and in the centre three letters only remained visible, viz., F L A..... Beyond this was another large hypocaust, No. 7, with a fireplace on the outside, and there were signs of foundation walls extending still further; but I am inclined to think that no very important discovery would be made if these foundations were traced; for by the many examples we have, both in Italy at Pompeii, and at the various villas in our own country, we know that the Romans never built upon a very large scale, nor can we expect to find those handsome apartments which are so common in our days. On referring to this plan I could almost suppose that there were *two* separate apartments, one on each side the entrance-hall, otherwise I can hardly account for so many hypocausts and flues.

The ground on which this villa is situated belongs to Samuel Hasell, Esq., who has been at great labour and expense in clearing about 170 feet in length, without finding a termination to the foundations; and it is much to be regretted that no sooner were the two finest pavements discovered, in Nos. 3 and 6, and even covered over with soil, than the idle curiosity of the vulgar uncovered and destroyed them, so that only hearsay records their designs and memory. This sad usage must discourage and stop all future investigation, which is much to be regretted, as Mr. Hasell possesses on his grounds the site of another Roman villa, apparently of much greater extent.

We seldom find good specimens of masonry in these villas, especially where the walls are constructed with stone, as they are in this place, for there are few fragments of brick. Many of the walls are constructed in the herring-bone fashion, and the stone tiles which covered the building are cut to a pattern unlike those I have before seen, and overlap each other.

Mr. Hasell has some well-preserved coins in silver, of the Lower Empire, but none older than Vespasian; a great variety of pottery, and some articles of stone, which appear to have been used as weights.

The situation of this villa, though on a flat situation, is admirably chosen for beauty and shelter.

Mr. Hasell intends leaving these ruins in their present state, for the inspection of those whose antiquarian curiosity may lead them to the spot.

Yours, etc. R. C. H.



## LOWER LANGFORD.

[1856, *Part II.*, p. 108.]

In digging down a bank, the foundation of an old wall, in Lower Langford, some pieces of old tessellated pavement have been exhumed, and most likely Roman—the more so if the camp on Mendip, above Rowbery, is Roman. It is very rarely that remains of this kind are discovered in small villages, being oftener found in old towns, castles, etc. The pattern of the pieces, so far as age has left it distinguishable, consists of lines of a deep blue, interwoven with others of what seems to be deep orange or red; and appears to be the border of a larger device, such as the figure of a dog, which was usually worked on the pavement of the entrance-halls in old Roman houses. Several pieces of old tiling, consisting of black between layers of red, very thick and hard, have also been discovered in the same place.

## PITNEY.

[1828, *Part II.*, p. 361.]

A tessellated pavement has been recently discovered in a field of about 8 acres, on the north-west of a hill, and under a wood, opposite King's Sedgmoor, in the parish of Pitney, near Langport. It has been opened under the direction and superintendence of Mr. Hasell, of Littleton, near Somerton. The floor is 18 feet by 20; it is in the highest state of preservation, and is allowed by persons best acquainted with the subject to be the finest specimen that has been discovered in the West of England. The centre is an octagon, in which is a perfect figure of Bacchus with the usual emblems, and the other part of the floor is divided into eight compartments, containing figures of Minerva, Mars, Neptune, and other heathen deities, and at each corner is a bust; a beautiful border surrounds the whole, and runs round each division. The designs are admirably executed in tesserae of various colours and very small dimensions, scarcely half an inch square; there is a coarser edging of tesserae, each about 1 inch square, between the border and the walls, which are in good preservation, and about 2 feet high, and the top only a few inches under the surface of the field.

[1830, *Part I.*, pp. 17, 18.]

I now send you an account of a villa at Pitney. This fine villa extends above 300 feet in length. Its form is an oblong square, surrounded by buildings, offices, baths, etc., the principal apartments facing the west, and having an extensive area within.

Five adjoining rooms are decorated with mosaic floors, in very good preservation, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. The same subject is continued in 1, 3, and 4; and that subject is so unlike any other that has been chosen, that it deserves our particular attention.

In almost all the mosaic pavements hitherto discovered in Britain we generally find figures alluding to the heathen mythology, with

arabesques of birds, fish, beasts, and foliage. The figures of Bacchus and Medusa are the most frequent, as in the fine pavements at Bramdean, in Hants, and at Thruxton, at the latter of which is an inscription.\* But in the pavement at Pitney we have a British story, alluding to the mines, smelting, and coining.

It is generally supposed that the Romans, after the conquest of Britain, were very diligent in exploring the minerals of our island; and, although we know not of any mines in the immediate neighbourhood of Pitney, yet they are found in great abundance in the adjoining hills of Mendip.

In the small room, No. 1, we see a young man striking with fury at the hydra, as we all know that *water* is the greatest enemy to mines.

No. 2 contains an elegant arabesque pattern.

No. 3 is the grand apartment, and I may safely pronounce it *unique*, for it contains within a square *nine* whole-length figures (in compartments), of about 4 feet in height.

I imagine that the central figure is the owner of the villa, holding a cup of coin in his hand to pay his dependants. The figures are male and female alternate, holding in their hands the different instruments still in use for smelting ore, such as rakes, forks, pincers, and long iron rods, crooked and straight; also canisters, or smelting-pots, from which coin is dropping.

Adjoining to this apartment is another, No. 4, of smaller proportions, and differing in design though not in subject; for the four square compartments (one of which has been destroyed), represent winged boys dancing and carrying along the canisters of coin, suspended on crooked iron rods, rake, pincers, etc.

There is another small apartment adjoining No. 4, which has only a simple mosaic pavement. The tessellæ of those pavements are composed of white, buff, blue lias stone, and brick.

The village of Pitney adjoins that of Littleton, near Somerton, where numerous remains of the Roman æra have been found, and is situated at a short distance from the Roman road leading from Iscalis (Ilchester) to Street and Glastonbury; and the whole of these important discoveries, and their preservation, are due to the zeal of Samuel Hasell, Esq., of Littleton, by whose means I have had very correct drawings made of all these fine mosaic pavements.

R. C. H.

[1836, *Part I.*, p. 194.]

We have heard with much concern that the very fine tessellated Roman pavement at Pitney, in Somersetshire, has been wantonly destroyed by the farmer on whose lands it stood.

\* See vol. xciii. ii., p. 230. [*Ante* pp. 109-111; 112-114.]

## SHEPTON MALLET.

[1864, *Part II.*, pp. 770, 771.]

I send you an account of an interesting evidence of Roman occupation, which was discovered last week at Shepton Mallet. In making an excavation for the purpose of fixing the large copper of an extensive brewery now in course of erection there, the workmen came upon a construction which I will endeavour to describe.

In a circular recess, formed 3 feet below the surface of the ground at the period from which the structure dates, is placed a shelf of the same shape, and 3 feet 6 inches in diameter. This shelf is formed of coarse unground clay, and is 8 inches thick. Its lower surface stands 18 inches above the floor of the recess, and it is supported by rude half-columns of the same clay, which are attached to the sides of the recess beneath. The whole of the clay used is burnt red with fire, but has at this time very little tenacity. The sides of this recess are formed of small worked stones embedded in clay, and their surface is covered with a coating of the same material, which remains in a very perfect state.

This shelf of clay is perforated with holes of two sizes. The larger ones are not circular, being some 7 inches by 8 inches, and others 6 inches by 9 inches; the smaller ones 3 inches in diameter, and some 3 inches by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The edges of these holes are very perfect. When first discovered, the larger holes held pots of common unglazed red earthenware. The opening of the recess in front of this shelf is 2 feet 3 inches, which is further contracted by two free-stone jambs to 1 foot 8 inches. These jambs rest on the floor of the excavation, and are 2 feet high, and 1 foot thick. The sides of the recess above the shelf are carried up 18 inches in stone work, and are covered with an even surface of clay. In front of this construction is a cleared space on the same level extending about 6 feet backward, the extent being marked by a portion of a layer of worked stones arranged on a semicircular form on the floor.

Above the natural ground level of the Roman period, which I have already spoken of, lies an accumulation of black soil, 2 feet thick, on which grass was growing before the brewery works were commenced with.

This curious structure is a Roman pottery kiln. I speak with some confidence on this subject, because I have been confirmed in this opinion by my friend, the Rev. E. Trollope, F.S.A., to whom I communicated the chief points I have stated, immediately after my first visit to the spot. Mr. Trollope says, "Of the Roman origin of this find there can be no doubt from the exuviae gathered from it." He also reminds me that at Castor, Northants, or Durobrivæ, a similar kiln was found, and described by the late Mr. Artis, a steward of Lord Fitzwilliam's. [*Ante*, pp. 238-242.]



The quantity of pottery found whole is very small. No vessel was quite perfect, four only failed of being so through having portions broken out of the bottom. The shape of these is the same. They are of common red, unglazed earthenware, formed like a flower-pot, having a small handle of the same material set on in the middle of the vessel. These are the leading proportions—5 inches high, 5 inches diameter at top,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches at the bottom; the handle 2 inches in diameter. Round the centre of the mug runs a band of simple diagonal markings. They are enclosed between two indented parallel lines running above and below. These were found in the large holes in the shelf already mentioned, and among the fragments is a large number of pieces belonging to similar vessels. One very shallow dish nearly perfect was also found, and fragments of other large and small vessels in black and red earthenware, many showing markings on the surface of various patterns, some of these being made, as it seems, with a stamp. The bottoms and other portions of very small jars in red and black ware also were met with.

No portion of metal belonging to the pottery kiln has been discovered. A quantity of black earth, lying on the floor in front of it, is supposed to contain the remains of charcoal with which it was heated. A bronze fibula was picked up on the same spot, and a few Roman coins have been met with in different parts of the site of the brewery. These are chiefly small ones of the Constantine period, known as "Soldiers' money."

On a second visit which I paid to the spot a day or two ago, portions of two handmill stones were shown me, which had been taken out of the débris. Both of them were imperfect, but one fitted into the other. They were formed out of a species of coarse conglomerate, and were 15 inches in diameter, and from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 inches thick. One or two medieval coins had also been found, and there is every reason to believe that the site is rich both in Roman, early British, and medieval remains, which will doubtless be met with, when any further opening-out of the soil is made.

You will be glad to hear that it has been resolved to arch over the pottery kiln, in order to preserve it, and to render it accessible to those who care to inspect works of the Roman period. Should any further antiquarian discovery be made at this place, I shall have pleasure in sending you a report of it.

I am, etc. W. B. CAPARN.

#### UPHILL.

[1846, *Part II.*, p. 633.]

An accidental discovery of Roman coins has been made near the limekiln, at Uphill, Somersetshire. On raising some stones a labourer observed an aperture in the rock, and on further examination a large

cavern was discovered. The entrance was level with the bottom of the hill on the south side, and on the loose earth and rubbish being removed, quantities of bones were discovered. The entrance is rather low, but leads to a large vaulted chamber, branching off in different directions, which branches have not yet been explored. In the chamber there is a sort of shelving rock, somewhat in the form of a sofa, on which a quantity of sand and rubbish had accumulated, on removing which some small pieces of Roman pottery were found, and, scattered near the spot, the workmen picked up 129 silver and copper Roman coins, many of them in a fine state of preservation. Our informant has sent us for inspection three of Valentinian and one of Gratian, and says they are mostly of those reigns. The sand and rubbish near the place where the coins were found were wheeled out into a field and thrown into a heap, and a number of persons from Weston and the adjoining parishes repaired to the spot, and found scores of these ancient coins. The cavern is only two miles from Weston, and is now open for exhibition. Its length from the entrance, as far as it is cleared out, is about 60 yards, but it is supposed that it extends much further. The workmen state they believe they are nearly under Uphill Old Church. Immediately over the place where the coins were found is a large fissure in the rock, through which it is supposed they may have fallen.

## WELLOW.

[1787, *Part II.*, p. 961.]

Being invited to spend a few weeks at this place, I made inquiry about some Roman tessellated pavement which was found in a field called The Hayes, about the year 1747, and is taken notice of by Mr. Gough, in his second volume of "British Antiquities."

Wellow is situated about four miles from Bath, on the Wells road, and is now a deserted village in the strictest sense of the word, though it formerly had seven churches in it, and houses were built where now corn grows and the cattle feed. It is in one of the fields, called The Hayes, those antiquities are found; and by what I could learn from an old inhabitant, about fifty years ago people came far and near to see the remains of what was reported to be a King's palace, and that they went down steps into a kind of kitchen or cellar; but so many persons came that they damaged the fences of the adjoining fields, so that the person who farmed The Hayes was obliged to have those remains of antiquity quite demolished, and there are now only fragments of the pavement scattered up and down.

I went last week with a pick-axe and spade, and about 2 feet under ground I met with the brick floor, which I cleared about 4 feet square (and it went further on all sides, but the time would not permit me to proceed). I picked up a piece of the tessellated pave-



ment, of nine square stones, of blue, red, and white; and other pieces of four stones and two stones, all which were so strongly cemented together that it was with difficulty I separated them from the mortar. I met likewise with a whole circle of about 200 stones; but as soon as I got them up, they all separated, and there were hardly three stones remained together; and those that did adhere to one another, in a few days came apart, although I laid them in the sun to harden. Perhaps some of your ingenious correspondents may be able to account for what appeared so surprising to me: that the pavement I found on the surface of the earth was so strongly cemented together, and that I found on the brick floor so loose that one stone would not stick to another.

I likewise picked up some petrified bivalves, or cockle shells, with which the ground about The Hayes is strewed. There is a field at Wellow, which is seen from The Hayes, and is called Round Hill Tiney, which name it may have received from a round hill in it, on the right hand, at the top of the field, and several trees are planted on the hill. Some years back, as they were ploughing the ground, the plough struck against a stone, which was so large that it took the whole team to remove—which when they had done, there appeared subterraneous vaults, in which dead bodies were deposited; and I was informed, the bones that were taken out appeared to be the bones of men of an uncommon size. Being willing to get what information I could, I went to the place, accompanied by the gentleman at whose house I am, and our wives, when we entered on our knees; and having proceeded thus for about 20 feet, we found we could stand upright. I then struck a light, having brought a tinder-box with me, and the place put me in mind of Signor Rolando's subterraneous habitation, to which he took Gil Blas. The place we were in was about 7 feet high, and 100 feet in length, from the entrance, and the whole place built up with stones, in which were some of the finest petrifications I ever saw. I searched for some bones, but only found a few pieces of bone, and one thigh-bone, which appeared to be of an ordinary-sized person. There did not appear any remains of coffins, so that in what manner they were buried, or whether they are Roman or British sepulchres, I am not antiquary sufficient to inform you; but should be happy to learn, that what I have related may induce some able person to make farther search into this remain of antiquity.

The field is the property of a Mr. Smith, of Coomb Hay.

AN ANTIQUARIAN NOVICE.

[1807, *Part II.*, p. 969.]

*Sept.* 24.—A most beautiful specimen of Roman elegance has lately been discovered at Wellow, Somersetshire, and by the interference of Colonel Leigh, of Combhay, together with the lord of the



manor, Colonel Gore Langton, will be prevented from suffering the injury and dilapidation which the relics of antiquity so frequently experience. What has been hitherto discovered consists of a piece of mosaic work, and of an exquisitely beautiful tessellated pavement, enriched with figures, in a high state of preservation; and the tesserae of which preserve the most beautiful and vivid colours. The dimensions are considerable; and from what has been already found, it would appear that a very considerable portion yet remains to be explored. As lately as Thursday sevensnight the workmen had exposed a fresh piece of great beauty, and as perfect as what had been previously laid open.

## WHATLEY.

[1838, *Part I.*, p. 435.]

The remains of a Roman villa have recently been found on the estate of John Henry Shore, Esq., at Whatley, near Frome, in the occupation of farmer Hill. Earth to the depth of 3 feet having been removed, a fine tessellated pavement was uncovered, consisting of two rooms connected together, one of them being 32 feet by 20, and the other 22 feet by 14. The pavement is tolerably perfect, but has suffered damage in one part. It consists of two compartments, one circular, and the other oblong. The tesserae are not larger than dice, but of seven various colours, and forming different devices. In one part is a figure with a sceptre, and in another an elephant, with several fishes, vases, flowers, etc. Bones, coins, pottery, and a curious clasp-knife, have also been found.

[1839, *Part II.*, p. 77.]

In making some further excavations, a small part of a wall has been laid open. It is covered with paintings on fine plaster, similar to that discovered by Mr. Lysons some years since, at Colesbourn, in Gloucestershire. The pattern is rudely executed, but the colours are distinguishable. There have also been found some coins of the Emperors Claudius and Constantine, a curious bronze spoon, a small bronze animal resembling a goat or sheep, a large needle of the same metal, and some fragments of fine pottery, which had been broken and joined together with molten lead.





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